

This Old House

8
great
PAINT REDOS
from
\$30

*Boost your
outdoor
style!*

→ 37 easy
makeover
ideas

See p. 70

**BEAUTIFUL
BLOOMS**

**Window-box
gardens
you'll love
to grow**
p. 47

Plus!

**Secret to
a brilliant
BBQ**

**Vintage
bath on a
budget**

JUNE 2013
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**THE DO-IT-ALL POWER TOOL
ANYONE CAN HANDLE** p. 104

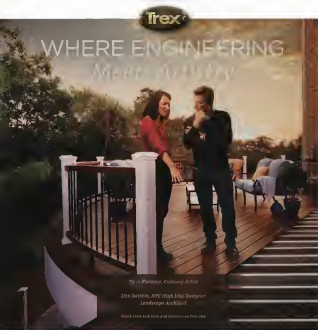
*When growth stopped, the maximum time to reach 100% germination of spores was 100 h at 10°C, 120 h at 15°C, 140 h at 20°C and 160 h at 25°C. The mean \pm SD of the number of spores per 100 g of substrate was 1.00 \pm 0.05, 1.00 \pm 0.05, 1.00 \pm 0.05 and 1.00 \pm 0.05, respectively.



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42
OUT THERE
LOOK FOR
LESS



OUTDOOR STYLE

Idea file

- 23 **before + after: kitchen**
Shifting a peninsula opens
thruway for more storage
and prep space
- 29 **Photoshop redo**
With ample facade and the right
accents, a boring bungalow
gives the Craftsman feel its
owners admire
- 70 **37 easy ways to upgrade
your outdoor rooms**
DIY ideas designed to make
all-weather spaces special
- 78 **planter's punch**
Thanks to a careful plan, tender
and unusual plants thrive in five
flowering garden rooms
- 84 **If these walls could talk**
A pre-Revolutionary War
house's journey to a
stylish rebirth

upgrades

- 42 **get this look for less**
Updated Victorian bath
- 52 **shopping**
Colorful, classic porch rocks
- 56 **build it or buy it**
Window box
- 62 **all about**
Pebbling

home solutions

- 22 Turn cheap beach chairs into
an outdoor bench: 30 uses
for sandpaper, get your
handicapped in shape, negotiate
a better deal on project
supplies and more

To a wall, what would this be a wall?
Photo: © 2013 Trex Company, Inc.

{ June 2013 } contents



70
SPRINKLE YOUR
OUTDOOR ROOMS



51
SHOPPING

on the cover



NO Boost your outdoor style!
\$1.24, \$1.48, \$1.73, \$2.27, \$2.77, \$3.27, \$3.77, \$4.27, \$4.77, \$5.27, \$5.77, \$6.27, \$6.77, \$7.27, \$7.77, \$8.27, \$8.77, \$9.27, \$9.77, \$10.27, \$10.77, \$11.27, \$11.77, \$12.27, \$12.77, \$13.27, \$13.77, \$14.27, \$14.77, \$15.27, \$15.77, \$16.27, \$16.77, \$17.27, \$17.77, \$18.27, \$18.77, \$19.27, \$19.77, \$20.27, \$20.77, \$21.27, \$21.77, \$22.27, \$22.77, \$23.27, \$23.77, \$24.27, \$24.77, \$25.27, \$25.77, \$26.27, \$26.77, \$27.27, \$27.77, \$28.27, \$28.77, \$29.27, \$29.77, \$30.27, \$30.77, \$31.27, \$31.77, \$32.27, \$32.77, \$33.27, \$33.77, \$34.27, \$34.77, \$35.27, \$35.77, \$36.27, \$36.77, \$37.27, \$37.77, \$38.27, \$38.77, \$39.27, \$39.77, \$40.27, \$40.77, \$41.27, \$41.77, \$42.27, \$42.77, \$43.27, \$43.77, \$44.27, \$44.77, \$45.27, \$45.77, \$46.27, \$46.77, \$47.27, \$47.77, \$48.27, \$48.77, \$49.27, \$49.77, \$50.27, \$50.77, \$51.27, \$51.77, \$52.27, \$52.77, \$53.27, \$53.77, \$54.27, \$54.77, \$55.27, \$55.77, \$56.27, \$56.77, 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\$661.27, \$661.77, \$662.27, \$662.77, \$663.27, \$663.77, \$664.27, \$664.77, \$665.27, \$665.77, \$666.27, \$666.77, \$

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how-to projects

38 budget redo

Paint striped walls and a handy bench will help create a colorful, cozy (and must-visit) nook-crafts corner

45 paint ideas

Enhance a favorite room feature by surrounding it with a unique textured wall

47 landscaping

Learn how window box gardens can beautify the view from outside—and inside—your house

62 weekend remodel

Save up your grilling mistakes with a cedar food cart on wheels

ask this old house

99 **Q + A** Mastering tips for a new lawn, den, smoother yard, and a black table so that it's a good safe and more

102 step-by-step

Install a skylight

104 TOT tested

32 van accessories

in every issue

9 reader mail

12 letter from This Old House

15 checklist

Easy ways to improve your home right now

19 digital highlights

106 directory

116 save this old house

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letter {from This Old House}

Black-thumb confessions

There's something I need to confess. A dark secret I've lived with for too long now and, finally, have to get off my chest.

How-boy, here goes. I've killed.

Yes, I've killed many times. There hasn't been a year in decades—maybe since the age of 13 or so—that I haven't breathed even a life. You see, it's a small thing.

Oh, the signs were always there. Talk to anyone who knows me back then, and they wouldn't argue if you described me as an odd kid. I read the encyclopedia—not individual entries but each whole volume. I cringed watching shows more than sports on TV, except for my New York Mets. And while it's true that in the mid to late 1970s the Mets could have provided murder in any form, there were further signs. For example, when other kids were out building go-carts, I decided that I wanted to build a vegetable garden. You see, there was just something about me that was odd.

And so it began, with some tomato plants. In my youthful excitement, I didn't realize when I put them in the ground, and witnesses set on them like tomato thieves. Sure, a generous jury might find that incident to have been more reckless than heinous than first-degree murder, but it was only just the beginning.

I don't have the space to name all the victims, the killing fields of my backyard here seem, but let's just say the list starts with asafetida and goes all the way through to sorrel. And the worst part, I know I'll do it again.

I used to feel bad about that, but then I read "Plaster's Pluck" (page 78). In that story, Andrew Bunting, the center of an a/homies, of all things, admits to his own slayings—and explains how he atones for his crimes, by putting in more plants. It's a strategy, though given the prolific nature of my misadventures, it's never going to give me the time to finally get around to that go-cart.



Photo: Rick Gorman

ES. Oh, and here's something you're going to want to kill me for. Can you guess the three most watched videos on thisoldhouse.com? Go ahead, try. As for the answers, I'm not in the loop. You've got to check out this month's tablet edition of TOH to watch them and see if you guessed right. You'll find details at thisoldhouse.com/tablets. And for those of you without a tablet, well, we'll post the answers here next issue.



The editor, all the scenes of his crimes, with a fresh set of victims for his garden fork and trowel.

When do I need to call in a pro?

How do I know if they are qualified?

What can I do to ensure a smooth working relationship?

To hear what the crew of **Ask This Old House** has to say about how to get the most out of your pro, visit thisoldhouse.com/hirespro



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Angie's list.

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**EASY WAYS TO
IMPROVE YOUR
HOME RIGHT NOW**

5 FAST FIXES

❑ **Cut cooling costs.** Raise your thermostat. Every degree will decrease your AC bill by 1 to 2 percent.

❑ **Protect container plants.** Adding moisture granules to potting soil helps plants survive hot summer temperatures, even when you're away at the beach.

❑ **Prune lilacs.** Deadhead spent blossoms for better growth next year. But don't cut if you see buds—you'll have next year's flowers.

❑ **Get string trimmers in shape.** Replace the string and the debris shield if it's cracked. Keep air vents clear during use to maximize engine efficiency.

❑ **Use slick windows.** Lubricate tracks with car wax for easier sliding this summer.



❑ **Zip poleweeds.** Keep an eye out for small white flowers on the stems of leaves of three this month. Kill the plants with an herbicide, and wash your tools and clothes after you're done to get rid of any trash-inducing sap.

Pet-proof garden beds

A few simple tricks can help keep curious pets from ruining all your hard work this season. To discourage digging, lay chicken wire between plants (cover with mulch for a more elegant solution). Placing short wood stakes in the ground among plants helps prevent pets from taking a snooze on your flora. You can also keep nibblers at bay by sprinkling your garden with cayenne pepper—just remember to reapply after rainfall.



Shore up dead bolts

Most home break-ins happen at the front door, so for added peace of mind while vacationing this summer, replace standard-lume N-and-loud-out-plate screws with the 3-inch ones to better resist forced entry. Increase security even more by reinforcing ordinary strike plates with a strike-box insert, a metal bracket that fits underneath the strike plate to backlock dead bolts squarely in place.

Patch vinyl siding

Repairing damaged pieces is a task best saved for summer, when the plastic material is warmer and more easily bent. Use a spigot like a miniature pry bar to remove the cracked siding. Cut a new piece to fit the space, plus another 2 inches,

and install it in place. For a how-to video with The DM Moose general contractor Tim Silva, visit diydw.com/jan2013.



Parper patio umbrellas

Your hardworking patio accessory can enjoy a longer life with some regular upkeep. Prevent corrosion



of frames and staining and mildew on fabric by wiping down umbrellas every few weeks with gentle dish soap and a damp cloth. Close the umbrella when not in use to shield it from sun and wind damage, but if you forget, all is not lost: Small tears can be mended with a bit of fabric glue and a few stitches.

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[June 2013] **digital**

Can you spot a winner?



Flip through thousands of before-and-afters in the **2013 Reader Remodel Contest** and guess which ones will take home the top prizes in next issue's big reveal.

thisoldhouse.com/yourTOH



How to paint kitchen cabinets

Discover a pro's secrets for brightening up old cabinet doors. Download the free Microsoft Tag app from the app store or through tag.mobi. Then scan this tag to watch the videos on your mobile device, or go to thisoldhouse.com/jun2013.



Exclusive extras

See competing videos, engaging interactive features and eight more red and color photos—like the ones in our window territory (page 47)—only in the digital edition of This Old House magazine. To get your copy go to thisoldhouse.com/tablet.

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home solutions

inside

10 USES

PAVEMENT FIXES

BACKYARD STYLE

MORE



A stabilizing bar under the seat adds stability, less than the removal of the chair's front legs.

An outdoor bench from cast-off dining chairs

Hang-back chairs are frequent finds at used-furniture stores and flea markets—ripe for a DIY conversion. This alight-style bench takes advantage of the chairs' graceful contoured backs and gets its new seat frame from home-center 1x4s and plywood. A couple of coats of exterior latex paint (we used Benjamin Moore's seaglass in Ginkgo), plus upholstery in a water-resistant, fade-resistant fabric (here, Sunbrella in Zinc Sunset), and you have a porch-ready perch. Visit thisoldhouse.com/jan2013 for the full step-by-step.

PHOTO: JENNIFER KOSHER

Sandpaper

Prepping for paint only scratches the surface of what this abrasive can do. Even worn scraps come in handy for household jobs like these

1 Remove rust from tools.

Use whatever remains in an hour! Fine-grit (like some elbow grease), coarse-grit work faster but can scratch (buff with fine grit, if you like)

2 Get better traction underfoot.

Scuff the bottoms of new leather-soled shoes with some heavy-grit paper

3 Open a stuck jar.

To get a grip on a tightly sealed lid, place a coarse sheet atop it, grip side down, grab and twist



5

4 Keep jackets hanging.

Glue scraps along the top of a wood hanger. The textured surface prevents slick fabrics such as rayon from slipping.

6 Make basement steps safer.

Along the top edge of stair treads, use contact cement to affix old paper from a belt sander

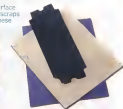
7 Whisk away pills from upholstery.

Lightly brushing a fine-grit spong back and forth over pillied fabric

whisks away unwanted fuzzies. For more delicate fabrics, test in a hidden spot first

8 Encourage seeds to sprout faster.

Gently dull the surface of hard-coated seeds such as peas, clover, and lupines with very fine-grit paper. This scarification helps seeds



10

absorb water and turn them out of dormancy.

9 Keep cats away.

Attach scraps of sandpaper to furniture that kitties have been scratching, or lay refined shavings spots where they've been spraying. Felines hate the gritty feel on their soft paws

1 Spiff up tile grout.

Soak grout in front with a folded fine-grit piece, rubs out stains. Cover glazed surfaces with tape and apply a sealant once the grout is clean. —ANNE KATHY

more 10 tips
Find more smart uses for
leftovers at thisoldhouse.com/jan2013

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Cabinet-door memo board

When wall space is at a premium or you'd simply rather not broadcast your household jottings, a hidden chalkboard inside a cupboard door does the job. And all it requires is a few coats of chalkboard paint (let it dry for a full three days before making your first mark). Bonus benefit: With this treatment, it's much harder to misplace your grocery list. —A.H.



Hardscape helpers



This *OnYouse* landscape contractor Roger Cook gets to the root of asphalt, brick, and concrete problems.

Patios weeds growing in cracks
Fix it now. No herbicides needed—just get those invaders out of the ground. Use a scraper to remove settled dirt in concrete or asphalt. A wet/dry vacuum on reverse or an air compressor will blast away the debris. Fix it for good. Fertilizer/buggar puts surfacem (details below). For brick-paved patios, clean out mortarbed joints with a pressure washer and fill with polymeric sand.

Repair the cracks themselves
Fix it now. Opt for cold-pour filler for asphalt; use a textured caulk or a pourable concrete grout on concrete. For the all, apply in 1-inch layers and press to seal a bond as you move. Fix it for good. Use a liquid permanent sealer to keep water out. (Note: It will darken the surface/color.)

Clear up mold, mildew, and more
Fix it now. On most hardscapes, first, apply a solution of 2 parts bleach to 50 parts water with a spray bottle or a mop and wet 10 minutes. Follow with a stiff brush and a garden-hose spray or use a pressure washer to dislodge whatever's left, and rinse. Fix it for good. Moss, mildew, and mold thrive in damp shady areas. Adjust sprinklers to landscape; get sprayed, and power tools to permit more direct sunlight. —KATHY HALL

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF THOMPSON'S WATERSEAL; PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS



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home solutions BACKYARD STYLE

Instant patina for new outdoor gear

You needn't wait around for garden accessories and exterior finishes to weather naturally. With the antiquing treatments shown here, you can fast-forward the aging process. Get the full how-to at thisishouse.com/jun2013 —*WILLIAM BROWN*

Aged terra-cotta

To get those white patinas to appear fast, terra-cotta has long cost an exorbitant amount of money. When dry stuff (sand and limestone) meets spray-on water (pigments), Organic Garden Lime, \$4.99, www.westgate.com



Antiqued brass

A chemical reaction rapidly oxidizes uncoated brass for realistic aging. Remove any clear coat first with paint stripper. Then brush on: Jax Brass, Bronze & Copper Finisher, \$1.99, jashhardware.com



Verdigris metal

The least potent verdigris copper salts, so any item can have this rich look. Use the mildest (verdigris-free) verdigris blue. Sophisticated Finishes Copper Metallic Surface, \$3.99, and Patina Blue Antiquing Solution, \$4.99, patina.com



Driftwood planks

For a subtly grayed-out look, an instant rag off this chemical stain immediately after applying. Seal stained wood with an outdoor sealer. Rust Guard Ultimate Wood Stain in Sunbaked, \$7.99, rustguard.com



Rusty metal

This acidic treatment isn't only for steel. It oxidizes any metal coated with oil. Use a rust inhibitor once the top coat is applied. Modern Masters Iron Reactive Paint, \$12, and Rust Accelerator, \$6.34, www.com.com



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Haggle a deal on project supplies

Whether it's a big box or a local wood-pig store, often you need only ask to snag yourself a discount. Some tips on mastering the art of negotiation.

Know when to go: Some people (or their managers) are more willing to cut prices at the end of the month to meet sales goals. They're also more receptive during slow times—often at midday on weekdays—so that other shoppers won't overheat.

Ask about price matching: Bring a rival retailer's ad for the item you want to your preferred store. Explain that you're a loyal customer and you'd rather buy from them and the store—if they can meet or beat the lower price.

Embrace inspection: Floor models, items damaged in transit and made-to-order goods abandoned by other customers are all fair game for serious haggling.

Request a bulk discount: When making a large purchase, ask for a percentage off the entire order. Not buying enough on your own? Shop with a friend who needs the same supplies.

Be ready to walk away: If your offer isn't met, ask the store to put the item on the clock. Lower your price another 10 cents the retailer has a change of heart.

—HANNAH S. HETTLER



Built-in botanical centerpiece

An integrated planter bed with easy-care succulents adds a flourish to a plain wood table just in time for summer entertaining. To make it, use straight-off, style gutter alongside for the raised plants. With square cut and angular openings in the bed to conform to the width of the gutter, spaced at least 6 inches from the table's ends. Strip the gutter to the length of the gap, cut the ends caps in place, and drill 1/8-inch holes every 2 inches along its bottom. Next, cut four pieces of 1-1/2 lumber two that are 32 inches and two that are the gutter's length. Attach the latter to the gutter's outside edges with 1/4-inch wood screws driven 8 inches apart from the inside. Then drive in each screw through the gutter's end caps into the 1-1/2-inch.

3-1/2. Finally, fill the assembly with the tabletop's underside. Drill pilot holes spaced 6 inches apart through the 1-1/2-inch side screws into the table holes. Use screws that penetrate at least half the top's thickness. Line the trough with landscape fabric and fill the bed with soil for succulents, pocket plants that are low growing so that you can see over them when seated. Give the plants lots of sun and an occasional watering, and they'll wow guests all season.—M



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IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION BELOW.

Do not take VIAGRA if you take nitrates, often prescribed for chest pain, as this may cause a sudden, unsafe drop in blood pressure.

Discuss your general health status with your doctor to ensure that you are healthy enough to engage in sexual activity. If you experience chest pain, nausea, or any other discomforts during sex, seek immediate medical help.

In the rare event of an erection lasting more than 4 hours, seek immediate medical help to avoid long-term injury.

If you are older than age 65, or have serious liver or kidney problems, your doctor may start you at the lowest dose (25 mg) of VIAGRA. If you are taking prostate inhibitors, such as for the treatment of HIV, your doctor may recommend a 25-mg dose and may limit you to a maximum single dose of 25 mg of VIAGRA in a 48-hour period. If you have prostate problems or high blood pressure for which you take medicines called alpha blockers, your doctor may start you on a lower dose of VIAGRA.

In rare instances, men taking PDE5 inhibitors (oral erectile dysfunction medicines, including VIAGRA) reported a sudden decrease or loss of vision or hearing. It is not possible to determine whether these events are related directly to these medicines or to other factors. If you experience sudden decrease or loss of vision or hearing, stop taking PDE5 inhibitors, including VIAGRA, and call a doctor right away.

VIAGRA should not be used with other ED treatments. VIAGRA should not be used with REVATIO or other products containing sildenafil.

VIAGRA does not protect against sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.

The most common side effects of VIAGRA are headache, facial flushing, and upset stomach. Less commonly, bluish vision, blurred vision, or sensitivity to light may briefly occur.

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IMPORTANT FACTS



(sildenafil citrate)

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ABOUT VIAGRA

Never take VIAGRA if you take any medicines with nitrates. This includes prescriptions. Your blood pressure could drop quickly. It could fall to an unsafe or life-threatening level.

ABOUT ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION (ED)

Erectile dysfunction means a man cannot get or keep an erection. It can be a problem. Taking any medicine with nitrates could make ED worse. It could fall to an unsafe or life-threatening level.

ABOUT VIAGRA

VIAGRA is used to treat ED in men. When you want to have sex, VIAGRA can help you get and keep an erection when you are sexually excited. You could get an erection just by taking the pill. Only your doctor can prescribe VIAGRA.

VIAGRA does not cure ED.

VIAGRA does not protect you or your partner from STDs (sexually transmitted diseases) or HIV. You will need to use a condom. VIAGRA is not a treatment or a cure for ED.

WHO IS VIAGRA FOR?

Who should take VIAGRA?

Men who have ED and whose heart is healthy enough for sex.

Who should NOT take VIAGRA?

- If you ever take medicines with nitrates.
- Medicines that treat chest pain (angina), such as nitroglycerin or isosorbide mononitrate or dinitrate.
- If you are now taking other drugs, such as "popcorn" (alloy) or other drugs.
- If you are allergic to anything in the VIAGRA tablet.

BEFORE YOU START VIAGRA

Tell your doctor if you have or ever had:

- Heart attack, abnormal heartbeats, or stroke.
 - Heart problems, such as heart failure, chest pain, angina, or other, or you are exercising.
 - Low or high blood pressure.
 - Recent heart loss.
 - An eye condition called retinal degeneration.
 - Stroke or liver problems.
 - Blood problems, such as sickle cell anemia or leukemia.
 - A defined penis. Peyronie's disease, or an erection that lasted more than 4 hours.
 - Recent stress or any kind of bleeding problems.
- Tell your doctor about all your medicines. Include over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. Tell your doctor if you take or use:
- Medicines called alpha-blockers to treat high blood pressure or prostate problems. Your blood pressure could drop quickly if you take or use VIAGRA or take.
 - Medicines to treat prostate problems for BPH. Your doctor may prescribe a 25 mg dose. Your doctor may treat VIAGRA or take in a 25 mg dose.
 - Other medicines to treat prostate problems. These include finasteride, dutasteride, or others.
 - A medicine called tadalafil. VIAGRA should not be used with tadalafil or other PDE5 inhibitors. The same medicine found in VIAGRA.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIAGRA

Side effects are usually mild to moderate. They usually go away after a few hours. Some of them are most likely to happen with higher doses.

The most common side effects are:

- Headache
- Flushing (redness)
- Stomach pain
- Low blood pressure

Less common side effects are:

- Double vision (blurry vision)
- Stomach pain
- Stomach pain

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before + after:
kitchen

Fresh slant on an open cook space

Shifting the peninsula extends the reach of a 1950s kitchen, and thoughtful finishes amplify its charm. By GEOFFREY BALDWIN • Photography GARY DUNN



(before)

BEFORE A wall of windows had put the rest of the island space to shame. (LEFT) The peninsula wasn't making room for more storage and prep space. Ceiling-height painted cabinets, an open sink, and a lagged floorboard give the room a fresh yet period-conscious style.

Poolside with an aethereal and you risk losing what makes it so uniquely familiar. So when Jereed and Grace Pyke bought her grandmother's creak house, in Georgetown, Texas, they tried to wire its period granddaddy with covering and some furniture. But the kitchen was awkward and uncomfortable. "The layout was really inconvenient," says Grace. "To put groceries in the pantry, you had to squeeze next to the window, and if you turned around you'd knock over cans." After a facade-lit-padded new window, architect J. Bryant Boyd worked to open up and make better use of the space. He added new plumbing and wiring, a wider opening to the dining room, and pretty cabinets for all those cans, then flipped the peninsula and angled it so that a new server both the kitchen and the dining room. Tongue-and-groove paneling gives the walls a vintage flavor, while pale-blue flat-panel cabinets with black hardware reinforce the updated traditional look. "We were sad to see my grandmother's coffee go," says Grace—but not forever. Her mom, a new grandmother herself, scooped up the beans and made them into an herbaceous chutney.



homeowner tip

GRACE PYLA
GEORGETOWN, TEXAS

"Our two-tier peninsula is great dining space. We set out drinks and appetizers on the raised breakfast bar and use the counter to line up plates and platters for the main course."

1 The angled peninsula and display cabinet enhance the sense of spaciousness.



before

Meal prep was crisscrossed in a cramped area formed by the utility peninsula and the awkward utility pantry closet.



after

Moving the peninsula, reworking the closet and cabinets, eliminating a doorway, and closing a side window made the layout fully functional.

1 Replaced the sink with a larger one centered under the windows.

2 Removed the original peninsula and installed a smaller window to fill in more upper and lower cabinets.

3 Rebuilt the wall to create a nook opening to the dining room.



4 Swept spots for the fridge and the range to create a cooking area with ample prep space.

5 Angled the peninsula and corner display cabinets to make them focal points from the dining room and back entrance.

6 Reframed the utility closet and moved its door away from the cooking area, allowing for the new peninsula. The new pantry wall eliminated a door and gave 3 feet to an adjacent bedroom for a walk-in closet.

ILLUSTRATION BY JEFFREY H. HARRIS

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WHAT'S INSIDE MATTERS

*Based on a comparison of the Energy Guide label for front-loading washers. ©2011 Maytag Corporation. All rights reserved.

before+after: kitchen

• the key details

• **Spices slide out** next to the new gas range. Salvaged oak floorboards blend seamlessly with the original flooring in the dining room. Range hoodpost



• **The TV is slotted** for easy viewing. Three built-in cabinet box and drawers behind figure-eight slotted panels. The cabinet box below it was designed to hold a larger fridge, which is still in the works. Flat screen TV 10



• **The small replacement window** on the wall facing east made way for extra storage and prep-tions while making the late afternoon Texas sun. Window Jeth-Ron Windows and Doors

▶ **family-friendly**
For more ideas on how to mix and match, visit houseofm.com/jul2013



• **The appliance garage** is built with the same tongue and groove paneling used on the adjacent wall. Cabinets: A&M Cabinets Countertops: Mesquite

• **Two cabinet doors** make a dedicated area for the waste bin, tucked neatly behind into a closet shared with the pantry. There's even room for a new water cooler as well

PHOTO: JETH-RON WINDOWS AND DOORS

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A bright breakfast nook for \$347

Subtly striped walls and a storage-savvy banquette add up to an inspiring family-gathering spot. **By MEGAN RAEER**



(during)

During: Tearing out the wallpaper never staid the kitchen, but today's furniture will make seating a hassle again. A new banquette saves space while fresh white on the delicate, gradient stripes on the walls, coral chairs, and colorful art brighten the nook.



the project tally

Removed wallpaper... then had a contractor friend help repair the walls at a discount.	\$50
Painted the walls with bands of pastel to medium gray.	\$60
Snagged a corbel bench off Craigslist and painted it and the table white, added washable outdoor paint from an on-site outdoor store.	\$178
Lowered the height of the banquette by cutting off the top rail, coated the chair with a sample can of coral paint.	\$6
Reattached the prints and put up a gallery wall made with ceramic knobs and art here.	\$83
total:	\$347

Even when the state of a space isn't a problem, the snap can be. In Dene and James Crossin's 1967 ranch in Albuquerque, New Mexico, family business made their family of five's kitchen breakfast nook feel so confined that it was difficult to seat more than two at a time. Although they have a formal dining room, Dene wanted to create a casual place for the whole gang to gather and for the three kids, all under age 5, to do crafts and (occasionally) homework. First, James removed three layers of 1970s- and 1980s-era wallpaper and hired a contractor friend to help replaster the walls. For a unique look that wouldn't overdo it, Dene painted the entire nook in two light to medium-gray stripes. The couple scored Craigslist for seating, settling on an L-shaped bench with hand-woven for an up-cycled storage and painting it and the table's existing table in a crisp-to-chair white. Dene's second choice: modern-film-to-covered cushions to make the bench more comfortable. The tall ladderback chairs overpowered the new arrangement, so James saved off the top rails before Dene painted the chairs a playful confetti-printed and a "gallery wall," where the kids can clip up their own projects, dishes off the spot. Now the nook fits everyone and provides a cozy eating spot. "It was an awkward space, which forced us to be creative," Dene says. "But it's become such a cheerful corner."

PHOTO: JAMES CROSSIN

If you have an irregular heartbeat called atrial fibrillation, or Afib, not caused by a heart valve problem, PRADAXA can reduce your risk of stroke.

- In a clinical trial, PRADAXA reduced stroke risk 35% better than warfarin.
- Unlike warfarin, no regular blood tests.

Ask your doctor about

Pradaxa
dabigatran etexilate
CAPSULES 150 mg

"With my Afib, I'm glad my daughter had me talk to my doctor again about reducing my stroke risk."



WHAT IS PRADAXA?

Pradaxa® (dabigatran etexilate mesylate) capsules is a prescription blood-thinning medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people with atrial fibrillation not caused by a heart valve problem. PRADAXA is not for use in people with artificial (prosthetic) heart valves.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ABOUT PRADAXA

PRADAXA can cause bleeding which can be serious and sometimes lead to death. Don't take PRADAXA if you

- currently have abnormal bleeding,
- have ever had an allergic reaction to it,
- have had or plan to have a valve in your heart replaced.

Your risk of bleeding with PRADAXA may be higher if you are 75 years old or older, have kidney problems, have stomach or ulcers bleeding that is recent or

keeps coming back or you have a stomach ulcer; take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, like aspirin, products, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and blood thinners, have kidney problems and take diclofenac (Voltaren) or ibuprofen tablets (Advil®).

Call your doctor or seek immediate medical care if you have any of the following signs or symptoms of bleeding: any unexpected, severe, or uncontrollable bleeding; or bleeding that lasts a long time, unusual or unexpected bruising, coughing up or vomiting blood, or vomit that looks like coffee grounds, pink or brown urine, red or black stools (looks like tar), unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain, headaches and feeling dizzy or weak.

It is important to tell your doctor about all medicines, vitamins and supplements you take. Some of your other medicines may affect the way PRADAXA works.

Take PRADAXA exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Don't stop taking PRADAXA without talking to your doctor or your risk of stroke may increase.

Tell your doctor if you are planning to have any surgery, or medical or dental procedures, because you may have to stop taking PRADAXA for a short time.

PRADAXA can cause indigestion, stomach upset or burning, and stomach pain.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see more detailed Medication Guide on next page.

Pradaxa
dabigatran etexilate
CAPSULES 150 mg

For more information or help paying for your medicine, call 1-877-PRADAXA or visit pradaxa.com



For handy info and to find caregivers, scan here for product info, caregiver



PRADAXA-001



Read this Medication Guide before you start taking PRADAXA and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This Medication Guide does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about PRADAXA?

- PRADAXA can cause bleeding which can be serious, sometimes lead to death. This is because PRADAXA is a blood thinner medicine that lowers the chance of blood clots forming in your body.

You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take PRADAXA and:

- are over 75 years old
- have kidney problems
- have stomach or intestinal bleeding that is recent or keeps coming back, or you have a stomach ulcer
- take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, including:
 - aspirin or aspirin containing products
 - long-term (chronic) use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
 - herb/infant salicylate (Aspirin®), salicylates
 - a medicine that contains heparin
 - dabigatran bisulfate (Pravda®)
 - prasugrel (Effient®)
- have certain kidney problems and also take the medicines cloxacillin (Mullax®) or cefazolin sodium tablets (Naxcel®).

Tell your doctor if you take any of these medicines. Ask your doctor if (pradaxa) if you take oral warfarin if your medicine is one listed above.

PRADAXA can increase your risk of bleeding because it lessens the ability of your blood to clot. While you take PRADAXA,

- you may bruise more easily
- it may take longer for any bleeding to stop

Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding:

- unexplained bleeding or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as:
 - unusual bleeding from the gums
 - nose bleed that happens often
 - menstrual bleeding is heavier than normal

Medication Guide

PRADAXA (you also call it) dabigatran etexilate mesylate capsules

- bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
- pink or brown urine
- red or black stools (looks like tar)
- bruises that happen without a known cause or get larger
- cough up blood or blood clots
- normal blood or your vomit looks like "coffee grounds"
- unexplained pain, swelling, or joint pain
- headaches, feeling dizzy or weak

Take PRADAXA exactly as prescribed. Do not stop taking PRADAXA without first talking to the doctor who prescribes it for you. Stopping PRADAXA may increase your risk of a stroke.

PRADAXA may need to be stopped if possible, for one or more days before any surgery, or medical or dental procedure. If you need to stop taking PRADAXA for any reason, talk to the doctor who prescribed PRADAXA for you to find out when you should stop taking it. Your doctor will tell you when to start taking PRADAXA again after your surgery or procedure.

See "What are the possible side effects of PRADAXA?" for more information about side effects.

What is PRADAXA?

PRADAXA is a prescription medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have a medical condition called atrial fibrillation. With atrial fibrillation, part of the heart does not beat the way it should. This can lead to blood clots forming and increase your risk of a stroke. PRADAXA is a blood thinner medicine that lowers the chance of blood clots forming in your body.

PRADAXA is not for use in people with artificial (prosthetic) heart valves. It is not known if PRADAXA is safe and works in children.

Who should not take PRADAXA?

Do not take PRADAXA if you:

- currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding. Talk to your doctor before taking PRADAXA if you currently have unusual bleeding.
- have had a stomach ulcer or reaction to PRADAXA. Ask your doctor if you are not sure.
- have ever had or plan to have a valve in your heart replaced.

What should I tell my doctor before taking PRADAXA?

Before you take PRADAXA, tell your doctor if you:

- have kidney problems
- have ever had bleeding problems
- have ever had stomach ulcers

- have any other medical condition
 - are pregnant or plan to become pregnant; it is unknown if PRADAXA will harm your unborn baby
 - are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if PRADAXA passes into your breast milk.
- Tell all of your doctors and dentists that you are taking PRADAXA. They should talk to the doctor who prescribed PRADAXA for you, before you have any surgery, or medical or dental procedure.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Some of your other medicines may affect the way PRADAXA works. Certain medicines may increase your risk of bleeding. See "What are the most important information I should know about PRADAXA?"

Especially tell your doctor if you take:

- chamomile (Matka®), Rafanex®, Rafanex®, Rafanex®

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them and show it to your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take PRADAXA?

- Take PRADAXA exactly as prescribed by your doctor.
- Do not take PRADAXA more often than your doctor tells you to.
- You can take PRADAXA with or without food.
- PRADAXA comes in a bottle or in a blister package.
- Only open 1 bottle of PRADAXA at a time. Finish your opened bottle of PRADAXA before opening a new bottle.
- After opening a bottle of PRADAXA, use within 4 months. See "How should I store PRADAXA?"
- When it is time for you to take a dose of PRADAXA, only remove your prescribed dose of PRADAXA from your open bottle or blister package.
- Tightly close your bottle of PRADAXA right away after you take your dose.
- Swallow PRADAXA capsules whole. Do not crush, chew, or empty the pellets from the capsule.
- If you miss a dose of PRADAXA, take it as soon as you remember. If your next dose is less than 6 hours away, skip the missed dose. Do not take two doses of PRADAXA at the same time.

- Your doctor will decide how long you should take PRADAXA. Do not stop taking PRADAXA without first talking with your doctor. Stopping PRADAXA may increase your risk of stroke.

- Do not run out of PRADAXA. Refill your prescription before you run out. If you plan to have surgery or a medical or dental procedure, tell your doctor and dentist that you are taking PRADAXA. You may have to stop taking PRADAXA for a short time. See "What is the most important information I should know about PRADAXA?"

- If you take too much PRADAXA, go to the nearest hospital emergency room or call your doctor.
- Call your doctor or healthcare provider right away if you feel or more weakness, especially if you feel you have "faded." Your doctor or healthcare provider may need to check you.

What are the possible side effects of PRADAXA?

PRADAXA can cause serious side effects, including:

- See "What is the most important information I should know about PRADAXA?"
- Allergic Reactions: In some people, PRADAXA can cause symptoms of an allergic reaction, including hives, rash, and itching. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you get any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction with PRADAXA:
 - chest pain or chest tightness
 - swelling of your face or tongue
 - trouble breathing or wheezing
 - feeling dizzy or faint

Common side effects of PRADAXA include:

- indigestion, upset stomach, or burning
- stomach pain

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all of the possible side effects of PRADAXA. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

How should I store PRADAXA?

- Store PRADAXA at room temperature between 68°F to 86°F (20°C to 30°C). After opening the bottle, use PRADAXA within 4 months. Safely throw away any unused PRADAXA after 4 months.

- Keep PRADAXA in the original bottle or blister package to keep it dry (protect the capsules from moisture). Do not put PRADAXA in pill boxes or pill organizers.
- Tightly close your bottle of PRADAXA right away after you take your dose.

Keep PRADAXA and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about PRADAXA

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use PRADAXA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give your PRADAXA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about PRADAXA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for information about PRADAXA that is written for health professionals.

For more information, go to www.PRADAXA.com or call 1-800-542-5257 or (TTY) 1-800-459-8988.

What are the ingredients in PRADAXA?

Active ingredient: dabigatran etexilate mesylate

Inactive ingredients: acidic dimethacrylate, hypromellose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, talc, and tartaric acid. The capsule shell is composed of croscarmellose, PEG 400, PEG 600, hypromellose, croscarmellose, titanium dioxide, and black oxide ink.

This Medication Guide has been updated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Manufacturer

Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Whispering Willows Drive
Raritan, NJ 08869



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Whispering Willows Drive
Raritan, NJ 08869

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Updated Victorian bath

A whitewashed cottage space with creative period details feels clean-lined and cozy
by WILLIAM BARTH • Photograph by ROBERT D'AMICO/STYLO

Sometimes the best way to update a space is to look to the past. In this master bath, Victorian-era style blends with select contemporary elements to create a washroom that feels fresh and inviting. A pair of elegant marble-topped console sinks supported by black-and-white shapely metal legs evokes an earlier time when "modern" exposed plumbing and polished-nickel fixtures were points of homeowner pride. But this isn't a strict period setup. Other time-banned touches—picture-and-lighting hanging books, candle-style library lighting—got reinvigorated in the bath setting. And the natural textures of wooden storage benches and rustic polished tables add an unexpected twist, warming up the room's hard surfaces.

Like what you see? Read on for more ways to refresh your own bath with ideas there forever classic.



timber table
A reclaimed, ponderosa pine wood block that has been kiln-dried approximates the weathered side tables at right. We coated ours with a protective sandpaper made of beeswax and orange oil. \$229, reclaimedwoodliving.com

mosaic-tile floor
The graphic shapes of octagons and dots tile proved an update to traditional gray grout tiles. Tile: \$2.50 per square foot, and grout, \$2.95, lowes.com



library nook

Traditional clock fixtures hung at eye level on either side of each vanity mirror add a pinched look and touch of old-fashioned character. \$147, homedit.com



cross-handle faucet

This spout matches the ones at left and is adjustable 8- to 18-inch under-sinks. It's perfect for low-flow water-saving sprays and 8 fluid oz. vintage sink taps. Kohler Pinetrip faucet. \$547, amazon.com

apothecary jars
Shiny glass-shopped containers store soaps, salts, and other bath solutions in style. 22-ounce jar: \$10 and 6-ounce jar: \$5, amazon.com



laundry basket

The woven fibers of this hyacinth basket add a rustic, natural texture to the space. Like wicker ones do, but these won't hang from... Basket: \$40, contemporary.com. Towels: \$14 each, sears.com

get this look for less



coral sink

Shop salvage for vintage Corcoran marble sink tops. We found this one at a flea market for \$250. Fit it with an undermount basin and wood legs finished with metallic paint for a handsome console setup. Legs: \$32 each, tablelegs.com. Mottos Metallica paint, \$24 per quart, benjaminmoore.com

arched mirror

This shapely oval framed mirror has a silhouette with the Louis Philippe-style ones in this room. Hang it with a gilded hook and stretch ribbon for a similar effect. Mirror: \$249, whitewash.com. Ribbon, from \$3 per yard, reynolds.com. Hook: \$1.29, lowes.com



lavender basket

Want to see more ideas for a Victorian-style bath? Check out our tablet edition. It's free for subscribers. Learn more at thisoldhouse.com/tablet

Where will color take you?

Discover a world of color and the very best paint at your Sherwin-Williams store or sherwinwilliams.com/color.



Enhance a focal point with stencils

Use a medley of motifs to frame a headboard—in a mirror, a window, even a cased opening—with style. **by DEBORAH DALLON**

Stencils lend themselves to wallpaper-like repeats. But combine a few different ones and you can create a custom pattern shaped to surround and highlight a favorite feature of your room. Here's how:

Round up three stencils with motifs of roughly the same size, plus a stencil with one or more smaller details that can be slipped in. The stencils we used are by The Stencil Library, a British maker (from \$26 each; stencil-library.com). Arrange the stencils on the floor to see how they might flow, keeping in mind that this type of pattern works best when strong vertical elements, such as branches, are oriented toward a focal point, like this headboard. To maintain that orientation, you may need to flip the stencils when moving from one side to the other for a mirror-image pattern. Consider filling in small areas with a special detail from one of the stencils, such as the birds-on-bamboo here.

Once you've practiced stenciling on paper—or in a spot that's easy to repaint—the work goes quickly, with results so magical that you may end up stenciling around every bed in the house. Want one more custom touch? Use fabric paint to stencil a coordinated pillow sham. ■

Shop-by-step
Get the complete
how-to at
thishouse
2014/04/01

Cost: About \$275
Time: One day
Difficulty: Easy, once
you master a bit and
master the technique



Just centered
by pulling
down a flat
iron and
stenciling with
singles.

keep it crisp Rub away excess paint from the brush or roller by running it over a folded paper towel—and use a light touch. **WIS?** Check paint coverage by peeling up a corner of the stencil. Then pry it up and use it more if needed.

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landscaping

Plant a better window-box garden

Packed with potential, these mini landscapes can benefit from a few design tricks of their own. By SUSAN DEEDER • Photography by DEBORAH WYLLIEN/ILLUSTRATION

Upgrading a facade is just the start of the window box's talents. Its potted plantings also bring garden scenes up close and serve flowery perennials indoors. And because window boxes are so prominently placed—and generally on public view—they draw more attention than patio pots without requiring any additional effort or expense. They're amazingly versatile, especially if you push past a mere growing of geraniums, as pretty as these can be, for a layered mix with nuance and dimension.

Like any garden planting, a window box comes with its own set of design considerations. Its close tie to the house is one. Study your home's exterior to see which windows need dressing up and what cues the architecture provides. Traditional houses, especially, welcome window-box plantings, which play up elements such as shutters and hardware iron.

But look from the inside out, too. Consider which rooms you are of too enough to warrant lower-ripped views, and give thought to plant size and placement, as these window plantings can also be a chance to add privacy. Dwarf conifers, for instance, can block unwanted views your round, while grasses are perfect for light screening. For homes below street-level windows, look in



thrillers, uprights, fillers Thrillers have it all. Why? plants represent the rare indoors and out garden mingling. Layer with cascades of trailing—and sedes.
*Flowering petunias and Diamond Frost euphorbia fit in the lush display.

low growers that won't mind being knocked over) for lucky second-story boxes, show off graceful spillers that cascade dramatically.

As with ground-level beds, light conditions will determine what you can grow. Full sun accommodates blooming annuals, while shade boxes favor foliage plants, like coleus and caladium. To properly show off these displays, select a box that's the same width as the window. (Our buyer's guide and building plan on page 56 can help you get started.) Use sturdy brackets to attach the box to your house, and cover it in a high-quality potting mix.

Arrange plants on top of the soil with you're happy with how the design looks from inside and out. Then use them out of the nursery pots and send them in. Some crowding is fine, as long as you keep plants handy to cut in rampant growers. You can also just drop potted plants directly into boxes and surround them with soil. This makes weeding and popping in seasonal selections a snap.

With a little effort, you can keep box displays going strong all year. Regularly check the soil, daily in hot weather, and water thoroughly when it feels dry a half inch down. Since nurseries wash out quickly from customers, fertilizer is a must. Good options include fish emulsion or a liquid kelp, diluted to half strength and applied every two weeks.

Brush out cold-weather plants—panners and cyclamens, say—for heat-lovers, like marigolds, as summer arrives. And as temperatures drop, try smothering in mulch, like leaves, for fall and a row of dwarf conifers for winter color.

Read on for more planting strategies to embellish a window-box plan, one that can last as long as you wish and will never stop living.

Use spillers to add drama

Trellis plants balance upright growers while warming up walls with their soft textures. Good picks are plants with naturally weeping or spreading habits.



1. skirting effect

A fringe of white, trailing *Scandalea* with scarlet geraniums, double petunias and pale yellow calceolarias calls attention to these windows with subtle means.



2. pop and drop

Trailing air-filled lily and purple sweet-petals are ground on mounded display of flowering *Scandalea* geraniums, petunias, and white lobelia.



3. running over

The stems of *Scandalea*, *delandia* and *parrot* a bush *Scandalea* flower as *Scandalea*, *delandia*, *delandia* and *delandia* color.

4. front and center

A fine line of lily of the valley plants line the box at the other end of the box. *Scandalea*, *delandia*, *delandia* and *delandia* color.

Rely on evergreens for structure

Stand right and easy to shape with topiary, dwarf evergreens anchor flowering annuals. Choose the hardiest varieties you can find to increase chances of winter survival.



5. perfect symmetry

When yellow-green dwarf *Scandalea* cypress trees, *Blue Star* juniper, the contrast in leaves plays up their soft textures, while a full of vines adds a touch of color.

6. floating spheres

Round-topped *Scandalea* in a wave of pink petunias, *delandia*, *delandia* and *delandia* in *Scandalea* for *Scandalea* a perfect rounded can survive past winter.



7. sculptural spruce

A dwarf *Scandalea* spruce, which gives privacy to the room, is offset by dwarf *Scandalea* cypress and a raft of pink petunias.



Try foliage for steady color

As flowering annuals go in and out of bloom, foliage plants maintain their eye-catching impact. Some, like grasses that plume in fall, change with the seasons. While others, like *Scandalea*, need fewer looks to keep leaves robust.

8. greens and creams

Ames planting *Scandalea* on *Scandalea*, *delandia*, *delandia* and *delandia* makes a tapestry of variegated leaves in every green and shade.



9. seasonal potter

The columnar plumes of purple fountain grass provide a vertical foil for lacy leaf *Scandalea*, *delandia*, *delandia* and *delandia*.



10. blue and white

The lower the foliage of a *Scandalea* euphorbia brings spectators to this cheerful jumble of the blues and pastel pinks.

Editor's choice

Find eight more creative ways to plant your window boxes in our latest edition. It's free for subscribers. Learn more at the [houzz.com](http://www.houzz.com).



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- Trim tricks to create functionality and beauty for your built-ins

Also available
from the Easy
Upgrades series



**Smart ideas
to organize
& maximize**

**Colorful, classic
porch rockers**

The traditional chair for outdoor relaxing gets pepped up in vibrant hues and rich stains. By AMY BERNSTEIN • Photography by LARA EMM

Whether sipping a summer afternoon on a porch is a distinctly American pleasure—as are outdoor seats that never break and forth to create an outdoor retreat. Both don't come with a price tag and popped up all across the country, though they become especially popular in the South, where their cooling rewards were most appreciated.

The archetypal porch rocker is wood, finished with paint or stain to some measure of protection against the elements, with a high slanted or upslat back. Painted, stained, and other variations—made to various architectural styles and sizes. Today, many are also made of cast iron or steel, but the most popular is still wood. We found nine options in a range of colors, materials to charm up your outdoor space, whether it be a patio or a deck or that old favorite, a porch.



Green 'n' Blue

Two cast-iron
Size: 26" H x 38" W x 49" D
Made of cast-iron painted green
with blue. The straight
back of this lightweight
chair looks great, with its
finished metal legs, shown
in a spring blue. \$120
berkeleyblue.com

Will a rocker "breathe" in your space?
It's not enough to look at the chair's depth.
Look past the seat of the chair to see the back and
feet, plus room for the other to stand up.
There's a lot more to look at.

crisp red design

2004 New York City, NY
 Size: 34 1/2" W x 21 1/2" D x 47" H
 Made of A-grade solid pine
Highlights: Basic round of
 Arts and Crafts design, this
 chair's form of back and seat
 curves for better support.
 \$150; lumberliquidators.com

20% OFF
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 solid pine
 furniture

**fantasy furniture**

O.R. PLASTER PRODUCTS
 Size: 29 1/2" W x 32 1/2" D x 49 1/2" H
 Made of 100 percent recycled
 plastic lumber, in aqua
Highlights: Buscaguet-style
 and classic, rounded corners,
 and heavily flared ends in wood-like
 "patented" finish—making it feel
 vintage like anywhere. Chair
 comes with a 10-year warranty.
 \$300; lumberliquidators.com

**turned and timber**

2004 LUMBERLIQUIDATORS.COM
 Size: 21 1/2" W x 32 1/2" D x 40 1/2" H
 Made of solid, stained
 oak wood
Highlights: Turned of the
 a turned top rail, and
 also a turned wooden post
 in the middle of the back.
 \$150; lumberliquidators.com

**utopia dangle**

1997 LUMBERLIQUIDATORS.COM
 Size: 29 1/2" W x 32 1/2" D x 49 1/2" H
 Made of Ash and Hickory
Highlights: A classic white
 rocking chair with a curved
 and flared ends, and a turned
 sides of the chair. \$150;
lumberliquidators.com



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STRIPED ROCKING CHAIR
Size: 27"W x 30"D x 40"H
Made of: Ash
painted light blue
stripes. The
chair's fabric back is
lined with coated
canvas, thanks to its
wavy slats and low
wood-like seat pan.
\$229.99-274.99



CLASSIC ROCKING CHAIR
Size: 26 1/2"W x 33 1/2"D x 42 1/2"H
Made of: 100% solid
green-painted
hardwood. A barely
noticed
arched top rail makes
this chair stand out in
any design. Made of
solid hardwood, it's
built to last.



CITRUS-GREEN ROCKING CHAIR
Size: 27 1/2"W x 32"D x 40 1/2"H
Made of: 100% solid
green-painted
hardwood. The
chair's fabric back is
lined with coated
canvas, thanks to its
wavy slats and low
wood-like seat pan.
\$229.99-274.99

BEAUTIFULY BROWN ROCKING CHAIR
Size: 27 1/2"W x 32"D x 40 1/2"H
Made of: 100% solid
brown-painted
hardwood. The
chair's fabric back is
lined with coated
canvas, thanks to its
wavy slats and low
wood-like seat pan.
\$229.99-274.99



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Window box

Buy a mounted planter in a variety of styles or construct a custom box supported by pre-made brackets. **by PHIL HOPE • Photographs by TANDY PREDICE**

A window box bursting with blossoms will brighten any window, from inside or out. If you buy a stock one, you'll have your choice of designs, but you'll also be limited to standard lengths—typically 2 to 6 feet, in 6-inch increments.

Building the paraded box shown here offers you the chance to tailor your planter to the width of your window and select molding to match your home's style. PVC boards come in white but can be painted any color. Either way, they mimic the look of painted wood without being a target for rot and mold. They're available at home centers in the same dimensions as traditional lumber. If you prefer to work in wood, choose a water-resistant species, like teak or cedar. Once the box is installed, your most important choice will be what to plant. We can help with that, too. See Landscaping, page 47, for suggestions.

get more info
For material lists and the links of tools and materials needed for this project, go to handyman.com/june2013



build it

PVC boards offer the look of painted wood plus protection from the elements

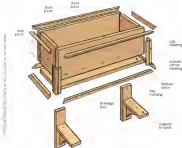
1. Make the frame. Use a sliding compound miter saw or a circular saw to cut the pieces according to the cut list at thoroldhouse.com/june2013. Sandwich the box's end pieces between the front and back pieces, applying PVC cement to the captured edges. Clamp the assembly together. Tack the corners with 20-inch brads. Use a 16-inch speed bit to drill drainage holes every 6 inches along the centerline of the bottom piece, and adhere and tack the piece to the box.

2. Attach the molding. Measure the built box, subtract the molding to fit, making 45-degree miter cuts at the corners. Apply cement and tack the molding in place with 16-inch brads, covering the seams at the bottom.

3. Install the brackets. Position a support bracket on the wall just below the window, to extend the sill framing, 3 to 6 inches in from the window's sides. Drill 1/8-inch pilot holes through the bracket and into the house's wooden siding or the pilot holes, and fasten the bracket with 1/4-by-3-inch screws. For brick or stone, use a masonry bit and masonry anchors. Use a 4-foot level to position the second bracket before installing it.

4. Hang the box. Center the box on the brackets and fasten it with 1/4-inch wood screws, installed up through each bracket and into the box.

Cost: \$96
Time: 3 hours
Difficulty: Easy You must work quickly with PVC cement, but assembly is straightforward.



build it or buy it

build it

buy it
Wood versus vinyl? It's a question of money and maintenance

\$88+

the basic model

A paneled design sets this planter's interior box apart. It comes with a set of matching brackets, and plastic liner protects the wood. outdoorlivingstore.com



\$120+

the mid-range model

Selects items from 2 to 6 feet, this PVC planter comes a lifetime guarantee against rotting or peeling. www.windowboxes.com



\$196+

the luxury model

To afford these rot-resistant boxes, this box mounts on a hidden clasp, so the brackets (included) are optional. windowboxes.com



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Revolutionary Spray technology sprays uniform paint, including unfinished pine.

PAINT SMART.



From blocky to bungalow

A clever porch design and period details impart a more nuanced, Craftsman look

By ANDREW STRATTON • Illustrations by DRAGGATE LLC



(before)

"It reminded me of Legos," says Dan Kern of his 1970s Garrison Colonial, in Northfield, New Jersey. "It's just one block stacked on top of another, without any architectural detail." The no-frills facade is typical of its era but a far cry from the Craftsman-style houses that Dan and his wife, Kelly, admire.

To offer the couple some upgrade ideas, we turned to architect Max Heylen, based in nearby Hopewell. He'd start by adding a porch with a pronounced roof overhang that extends up the sides of the house to the ridge line, giving the original second-story the look of a third dormer. Adding an overhang to the existing roof ridge is "a lot easier than replacing the roof, but the results are just as dramatic." And the porch marks the other secondary update: symmetrical windows. "It's all really inspiring, but the porch is my favorite part," says Dan, who hopes to recruit his parents and brothers to help him build it. ■



Blow on the chimney to show the facade's new symmetrical window looks.

Finishing touches

Craftsman-style accents and an earth-tone color palette warm up the new facade. ■



shutters

Columbia-style shutters in black and white, \$200 per pair



paint

Benjamin Moore's Regency's Copper Red and Regency's Gilded Gold paint, \$24 per gallon



scones

The prominent frame sconces on this wall around the main entry are a classic Craftsman entry detail. H&B Lighting, \$24



columns

A tapered square post atop a stone pier is a classic Craftsman entry detail. H&B Building Products, \$425

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2. Assemble the frame

A. Drill the dowel end into the rails. Flip up the two rails side by side and use a combination square to mark a perpendicular line across their faces, 3/4 inches from each end. Mark the center line on the face of the two rails where they float into the slats. Position the dowel tip at the end of the rail, with its center register over your center line mark, and clamp both the jig and the rail to your work surface. Use a 1/4-inch bit to drill two holes 3/4 inch deep, at the angle of the rail, register a pair of pliers on both ends of both rails. Next, align the jig over the perpendicular marks on the slats and drill a pair of holes into the side edge of all the boards at each location. To predrill the holes for the aluminum rods, clamp the jig flush at each end of each side and drill through the water guide to make just one hole, as shown.

B. Dry fit the frame. Use a backsaw to cut two pieces of aluminum rod to length for the vertical racks. Lay the frame pieces out on your work surface, and dry fit them to make sure everything lines up.

C. Assemble the frame. Apply wood glue to one end of the wood dowels, and insert them into the holes on the rails. Apply glue to the exposed dowels for one side, install them as shown, and slip the aluminum rods in the two open holes on that same side. Now, apply glue to the dowels for the second side, snap it in place, and use bar clamps to hold it.



3. Install the tabletop slats

A. Rout the slats. Clamp the four tabletop slats together edge to edge, then clamp the assembly to your work surface. With the same router bit, cut a rabbet 1/4 inch wide and 1/4 inch deep across each end of the assembly, as shown.

B. Attach the slats. In order to hide the fasteners, layout the slats rabbit side up, then fit the frame into place over them. Use spacers (we used paint stems) to keep the slats a uniform distance apart. Countersink two 1/4-inch pilot holes through the rail and into the joint at the ends of each slat. Then use 1/4-inch brass wood screws to secure the slats, as shown.



Tip: Use perpendicular spacers to push the slats up into the rabbet to fit the tabletop frame and to keep clamps out of the way.

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4



4. Make the base

A. Create the feet and brackets. Along the top edge of a blank, find the center point, measure 1/4 inches out to each side, and mark these points. Set a bevel gauge to 12 degrees and use a cutoff saw to cut from each point to the edge. Clamp a straightedge down as a guide, and cut out the foot. Use the piece as a template to mark the other sideblanks for the feet and brackets, then cut them all.

B. Assemble the legs. Clamp the two boards for the stationary leg snug against top of the same material, then clamp a foot to the assembly. Countersink four holes, as shown, and attach the foot with 1/4-inch-deck screws. Attach the second foot to the leg's other side, and cap with brackets at the other end for the tabletop. For the wheeled leg, attach only the foot pieces.

Tip Clamp a scrap block directly behind the side block to serve as the drill bit from "blowtop out" as you're drilling the backside of the block as it exits.



5. Build the wheeled leg

A. Make the axle blocks. To form an axle block, glue two pieces together that are the same width as the leg. Draw a reference line down the block's center and clamp it to your work surface. Use a 1/4-inch bit to drill wide straight through the top piece, as shown. Flip the drill level, and continue the bit along the centerline as you drill. Repeat for make the other block.

B. Bore the axle holes. The axle hole is drilled through the bottom of the leg. Stand the leg on your work surface and temporarily clamp the axle block against the leg between the feet. Use the block as a guide to drill through one of the leg boards, as shown. Repeat on the leg's other side.

C. Install the wheels and foot pads. Position both blocks between the feet and slip the threaded rod into place to help align them. For each axle block, countersink two holes through the foot and into each side of the block, and screw in the place. Slip a 1/4-inch washer onto the rod, followed by a wheel and another washer. Thread a 1/4-inch locknut onto the axle to hold the wheels in place. Do the same on the other side, and cut off the excess rod with a hacksaw. Countersink holes and screw the foot pads underneath the feet on the stationary leg.



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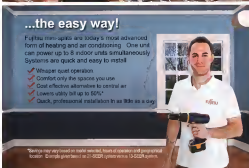
- ✓ Noisy window A/C keeps you from hearing the TV
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*Savings may vary based on make, selected, hours of operation and geographical location. Example given based on 21-SEER system versus 13-SEER system.

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Halcyon

6. Install the legs

A. Measure and cut the legs. Place the stationary leg in your work area. Lay the wheeled leg on top of it and line up the bottom of the wheeled leg with the bottom of the flat pads. Then use a combination square to mark the length of the stationary leg against the wheeled leg, as shown. Cut the wheeled leg to length with your circular saw. To install the tabletop supports, drill countersink holes and screw them in place. See Step 4B.

B. Attach the stretcher. Mark both legs 13 1/4 inches from the top, and drill them upside down on your work surface. Clamp the stretcher between them. Just above the marks. Use your 3/16ths countersink holes and secure the stretcher with deck screws.

C. Attach the legs to the tabletop. Lay the tabletop upside down on your work surface. Center the leg assembly on it. Put a 1/4-inch hole in your drill. Mark a hole at 2 1/2 inches from the top with a piece of tape, and mark the brackets 1 1/4 inches from each end, over the slits. Drill straight holes 1 1/4 inches deep (to the tape line) into the ends of each bracket. Secure the brackets to the table sides with 24-inch deck screws.



see how
it's done

To watch a video of this project,
go to www.hgtv.com or go to
www.hgtv.com for more.

6



7

7. Install the shelf

A. Attach the shelf brackets. Stand the table upright on your work surface. Use your drill to countersink holes and screw the shelf brackets to the legs. Lay the shelf on the top of the stretcher.

B. Secure the shelf slats. Lay out the shelf slats using your square to maintain an even distance between them. Countersink one hole at each end of the center slat into the top edge of the stretcher, and screw it in place. For the others, countersink two holes at each end and drive screws into the top edge of each bracket to secure them. Now it's time to set up the grill. ■



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COMPOSITE DECKING



37

Easy Ways to Upgrade Your Outdoor Rooms

If your open-air getaway is looking a little empty, it may need more structure—and maybe a few creature comforts, too. Start with the 14 settings we've rounded up here. Each is packed with easy DIY tricks, from hanging an airy canopy overhead to building a simple pea-gravel patio below. Set out a daybed, weather-resistant cushions, or one of our other finds, and in a short time you'll have the ultimate staycation escape.

BY AMY R. HUGHES

Porches

There's no more natural extension of your home's living area than a porch. But all too often, furnishings are bare-bones. The trick to making this outdoor space more inviting is to layer on the same comfortable and stylish touches you'd expect indoors.

Add laid-back luxury

1. Color underfoot: A lively paint job makes the floor an accent wall. The floor paint on this porch, a few shades darker than the watery blue-green walls, offers a fresh color contrast to the usual gray. *Behr Premium Porch & Patio Floor Paint*, about \$30 per gallon, homecolors.com

2. Cushions and quilts: Guests linger longer when seats are supportive. In this setting, mismatched pillows and blankets in the same muted tones add cottage charm. Similar to shown: *Simply Shabby Chic* by Patchwork Quilt, \$80 for a twin, and *Rosalee Ruffled Pillow*, \$23 for twin, target.com

3. Flexible seating: The more sit-down options you have, the easier it is to entertain. Look for ideas that

to encourage close conversation. Vintage wicker sets pop up on Craigslist needing only a fresh coat of paint, and an upholstered footstool can double as a pet-sit perch for kids. Similar to shown: *Frederick Fort Stool*, \$59, homecolors.com

4. Rustic wall: Create a sense of enclosure with a partition wall fashioned from a vintage screen door. You should be able to find an old door, such as this enamel Victorian-era model, for about \$100 at a salvage yard.

5. Pretty pendant: Set the mood and lighten the night with a nautical candle chandelier. Similar to shown: *Gifts and Décor* brought from *Royalty's Candleholder Chandelier*, \$26, sawson.com



Go for bold color

6. Wicker furniture Make a seating area the centerpiece. This colorful painted wicker looks like a splash of color. Vintage wicker finished with Impervex Ultra High Gloss Enamel for wood or metal at Delphium, about \$65 per piece. benjaminfranklin.com

7. Seagrass umbrellas Also, flags, especially when positioned under hanging lights, can help define a quiet spot for dining or lounging. Here, flared, seagrass umbrellas are hanging from a wooden arched trellis. Similar to shown: *Pond Street Indoor/Outdoor Rug*, \$66. coshandale.com

8. Green screens A line of trees, tall shrubs, or bamboo plants can provide privacy. For a faster solution, use a privacy screen. A line of trees, tall shrubs, or bamboo plants can provide privacy. For a faster solution, use a privacy screen. A line of trees, tall shrubs, or bamboo plants can provide privacy. For a faster solution, use a privacy screen. www.furniture.com



Enliven with accessories

9. Matching curtains and pillows Hang quick dry drapes for extra shade and privacy and use coordinated throw pillows for a cohesive look. Similar to shown: *Flaxseed Outdoor Curtains and Pillows*, \$30 per panel and \$45 per pillow. www.love.com

10. Deep blue overcoat Highlight the entry with a dark, saturated and energetic shade. Here, a deep blue overcoat is hanging from a wooden arched trellis. Similar to shown: *Flaxseed Outdoor Curtains and Pillows*, \$30 per panel and \$45 per pillow. www.love.com

11. Shadow box art Personalize the space with all-weather artwork. The shadow box on this porch features a window frame and provides protection from the elements. The cool, dark tones on the main made: *Shadow Box Art*, about \$60 per piece. www.love.com

Pavilions

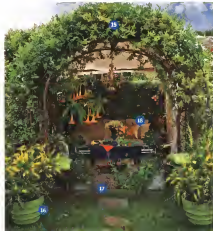
A freestanding structure set away from the bustle of the house can be a real draw. Build it yourself with some key parts, and make it complete with just a few furnishings.

Inject vintage style

12. Painted parts Salvage old porch posts, make off the feet, and paint them. Paint windows and a gingerbread panel on the inside. About \$150 to \$250 per piece. columbusantiques.com

13. Sun-reflecting roof To keep cools down and ease installation, look for galvanized metal panels. Corrugated Galvalume Metal, about \$30 for a 3 by 7 foot panel. corrugatedmetal.com

14. Lushhousers An antique chair in a doghouse-like structure. Victorian era doghouse—lasted only two \$1,000. Opt for an easy one: *Wicker Chase* in white, \$250 (columns are extra). pawloshouse.com



Try a lush look

15. Lush archway Position an arched trellis to serve as a dramatic porch. This metal one holds a large potted plant. Similar to shown: *Galvanized Living Single Archway*, \$127. wylor.com

16. Potted plants Establish a garden with portable greenery. Consider a green wall or a container garden. Similar to shown: *Garden Deluxity 16 inch x 16 inch Milano Planter in Cracked Green*, \$33. amazon.com

17. Potted carpet For an easy DIY look, pour a grass mat into a frame that will hold it in place or protect it. The mat will last only for a few weeks. Similar to shown: *Multi-color pea gravel*, about \$4 for a 400-pound bag at most yards.

18. Potted seating Make sure any upholstery is weather- and UV-resistant. Similar to shown: *Le 2 Boy Outdoor Benches*, \$249. sears.com



Patios

A little structure makes a patio feel like an outdoor room. Consider a paved or loose-stone floor, and use the house or a fence for a sidewall or two and a pergola or trellis boughs for a "roof."

Create ambience

20. Partial shade A pergola offers just protection without blocking breezes, while its open sides frame the view and establish a sense of enclosure. This pergola was custom-made. But DIYers can build one from a kit. Similar to shown: Outdoor Living Today's Best Cedar 8 by 13 foot Pergola, \$2,349, home depot.com

25. Water feature No bubbling brook nearby? A fountain can bring its soothing sounds. Just be sure there's a spigot for replacing evaporated

water and a outlet for running the pump. This sculptural fountain also adds a formal touch to an otherwise casual backyard view. Similar to shown: Animated Salsu Indoor/Outdoor Fountain with LED Light, 3-433, simplyfountains.com

21. Looking glass Hang a mirror on a wall or lattice to create the illusion of a window to another room. Similar to shown: Bronze Crystal Vanity Mirror with a water-resistant polycarbonate frame, \$30, walworth.com

Prep for gatherings

22. Side seating An eating area near the house includes the number of steps to the kitchen. Add a weatherproof canopy with pedestal table that doubles as a bar, anchored that hold for easy moving. Similar to shown: Table about \$250 at garden centers. Jordan Woodco. Folding Bistro Chairs, \$230 per pair, target.com

23. Posing palette Follow the 60-30-10 rule for color selection. In the outdoor space, the house, table and flagstone create a neutral foundation. Red elements account for 30 percent, and lively accents claim the rest.

24. Floral focal For another like backdrop, train a flowering vine up the wall and under the eaves or the top of a door or window. Just add a few more flowers with medium green vines for a support structure. Red mandarin is a 2½ quart pot \$15, lowes.com



Build a fire

25. Glowing hearth Arroyo Burn draws simple rear and keeps them cozy after the sun goes down. If you've got the space and budget for more than a firepit, consider putting in a freestanding, griddle fireplace and surrounding it with a built-in shelving unit or a low-topping wall. For a 30" version of this wall with built-in firepit, consider a freestanding base of cedar block, face it with ledgerstone veneer and top it with custom cast flagstone. Similar to shown: San Juan prelit gas or propane freestanding with masonry surround, \$2,600, woodlanddirect.com. AirStone veneer, \$50 per carton (about 8 square feet), lowes.com

26. Textured accessories Baskets and rugs made from natural fibers, such as jute and wool, wear the well and fit naturally with their outdoor surroundings. Similar to shown: Owen Henningson Jute Rug, 5 by 8 feet, \$190 and Decotouch Limited Basket, \$95, potterybarn.com

Decks

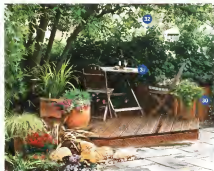
Finish a simple wood platform, whether attached to the house or out in the yard, with plants and materials that fit in with the surroundings.

Warm it up

27. Patterned Floor Use deck stain to make a checkerboard in weathered planks. Similar to shows DeckScapes deck stain in Cottonwood and Kings Canyon, about \$46 per gallon. sternw.com

28. Lousy levels. Pliers and utility
knives affected gull-bell structure
to all open space and can't slide inside
thunder (See, anthracite, 160)

29 Metal trellis Iron panels invite vines like clematis to create a privacy screen. Similar to those ACHLA Designs Squares-on-Squares (\$94 for a 324 by 96 inch panel) homedecor.com



Assemble an intimate getaway

3D, Low walls: A deck that doesn't require railings can be bordered with lowing and planter boxes for a backed-away feeling. Large Cedar Planters from S.D.B. hobbiesandart.com

25. Machine-wash Set down for a glass of wine or dinner for two at a folding table that's portable and easy to store. The *Machine-wash* wood set, which is made of a sturdy material, requires no maintenance with a penetrating oil, such as linseed oil, to maintain its finish. Similar to shaven, Living Accents 3 Piece Wood Dining Set in space \$80. www.livingaccents.com

33. Green roof An angle-reading of (d)ing (d)es under a background line. The dappled shade created by leafy branches overlaid is atmospheric—and it's free!

Set up a snug nap spot

33. Comfort Who says you can stretch out only on a chair? This mid-century-modern bedframe can weather the elements just fine. But even one round of unexpected-untreated pine can be protected—and warmed up—with the right finish. Try a midsize, open-mesh slat, cut a custom rest frame, stain the slats with a water-based stain, and add a fitted sheet—style: popper, stretched from quick dry weather-resistant fabric. Finish with outdoor cushions, as well as indoor beans—if you're willing to bring them inside in damp weather. Similar to shewn. *Finished bed frame, \$40. Seat, com.*
 Vermont Natural Coatings Paints/Finishes/Labors
 Wood Finish in Natural Green, \$20 per quart,
 1000 Main St., Shelburne, VT 05488
 Outdoor Munga slatted bed with \$10 per yard
 outdoorcushions.com

24. Stagedoor summer An outdoor rug brightens deck boards and outdoor bare feet. Similar to shown. Peppino's weaves plastic outdoor carpet variations directly off patterns, including the Lisa Hunter in Pink and Vanilla. \$136, www.weave.com



A canopy caps it off

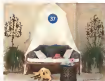
One of the simplest ways to enclose a space is with tubing. These three styles offer shade while adding a little drama.



35. Silk-lined suit
Long lengths of silk coming over a clothesline strung between the house and a pole anchored in the backyard. Because the sides to a fence or a roof something with sturdy spring clips. Similar to shower. Silk Suspenders at Sea \$50 for a 3 by 8-foot piece
silkshades.com
Everlast Wood
Clotheslines
\$2.99 for 10 ft.
homedepot.com



36. Repurposed tarp
Cotton canvas treated to resist moisture can serve as a temporary meeting when suspended from a post with ties or metal clips. Sander to show. Coated white canvas tarps with grommets for ties, from \$18. modern.com



37. Browsable writing A central line-writing that comes with its own "hall" to hang from turns a well-cushioned bench into a private gateway. Similar to shown along with SDR www.sdr.com ■

planter's punch

Artfully mixing familiar favorites with more unusual plants is the secret to this garden's charm

by Adam Levine photographs by Rob Cardillo



Bright ideas Homeowner and horticulturist Andrew Bunting. ABOVE, grown on an endless array of plants in his Pennsylvania garden, including outdoor omeas. LEFT, a mix of annuals like a cluster of maroon cosmos, and Senecio Purple Angelica, 19217, which flowers through most of the summer heat. OPPOSITE, in his special garden (a) a small blue and white plant is softened by starburst rounds of All Gold Japanese flower grass and shaded by several green moss trees and shrubs, including four Japanese bellflowers and a Yucca japonica cedar that towers above them.



f

AMILAR PLANTS WITH HEARTS FOR GOOD REASONS: Delicacies signal the start of spring, shade-loving hostas show where many perennials wait, and ornamental grasses bring texture and movement to stark winter scenes. Such plants are loved because they're beautiful, reliable, and mostly carefree. But take a stroll through the garden of Andrew Bunting, and you'll likely come away inspired to try something new.

An owner of The Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College, a 300-acre campus outside of Philadelphia that doubles as a public garden, Andrew is charged with showcasing thousands of unusual plants. And as you might expect, a career spent tending to rare collections has influenced his choices at home, too. "My garden is like a little cabinet of the arboretum," says the horticulturist and garden designer. "If I grow a plant there that I like, I may plant one in my home garden, too."

With just a one-third-acre lot and an ever-growing wish list, however, Andrew made it a point of practicing restraint. "It's constantly torn between being a collector and wanting my garden to look nice," he says. But unlike many collectors' gardens, where plants come first and design second, his garden has a carefully conceived plan. When he bought the property, in 1998, the house had been a rental and the yard was overran by brookline-high weeds. He spent most of that first season pulling out ivy and pachyrhiza, logging away old firewood, and removing dying trees. "It kept two Japanese maples, several Norway spruces, a couple of birches, and a dogwood," he says. "Everything else came out." The garden's current layout closely resembles the original sketch Andrew did years ago. His rectangular lot is divided into a series of five garden rooms, separated from one another by hedges, walls, or the house itself. Each garden has its own theme, as well as its own sun exposure and soil conditions, which helps limit plant choices. His woodland garden, for instance, lies beneath tall trees that suck most of the moisture from the ground, so the plants in those beds must all tolerate dry shade.

Although each space is distinct, Andrew learned them together by using some of the same key plants throughout the garden. In addition to the "Sudans" Japanese cedars, he relies on boxwoods and yews, which he prunes into spheres and columns to provide lovely structure year-round. The result is a series of repeating sculptural elements that draw the eye from room to room.

Giving precedence to plants with off-season interest helps Andrew make the most of every square inch of his property—and now so has collecting autumners even come. He favors plants with evergreen leaves, textured bark, colorful fruit, and winter blooms. One such four-season plant is bloodtwig dogwood, which he planted outside his kitchen window so that in winter he could admire its burnt orange stems from indoors. Another is pale speckled bush from spring through summer, that shrub provides a glossy green backdrop and then, just as most of the garden starts dying down, comes through with showstopping pumpkin-orange foliage in fall that fades to muted tan in winter.

Visitors usually enter the garden from the driveway, which is now mostly lawn. Walking to the backyard, they find a bluestone patio surrounded by a clipped hedge of "Sudans" Japanese holly. This entrance seating area has a revolving color scheme. Greened each year by Andrew's numerous container plantings, which, as he likes to say, "give a high return for the soil return." His pots, overflowing with mosses and tropicals, are quick to mature, and they look good from June until frost. "I can group them to create vignettes, we can move them to different parts of



rotating display Tropical plants, such as raffia, *Philodendron elephant's ears* and the giant, *Musea*, move behind them and into rest for the border along the sunroom (d). Each border section can be overwintered indoors or simply replaced each year.



a patio for pets Containers line the edges of the main house's back patio, with some placed on a tiered slope. Along the stone wall (e) and on an elevated (f) to make the plants better visible.

the plan

From the start, Andrew wanted seating areas, a path to his containers, vegetable beds, and a water feature. He opted for a series of five garden rooms, each with its own feel and an impressive collection of seasonal plants.





a spot for edibles Despite a garden gate, this kitchen garden has four beds for vegetables and flowers, with herbs planted in the center (e). Most cherry tomatoes flourish; beets thrive. The showy flowers add beauty and lure in pollinators.

the garden," he says. And if a display doesn't perform as expected, it can be removed with far less angst than ripping out a failing up-ground plant.

A gap in the pine's hedge opens onto a lawn. A long border that runs the property's length harbors trees and shrubs, including a typical hedge of upright 'Frons Fontaine' European hornbeam and two Korone hollys (about 20- to 30-foot pyramids). Beneath these specimens grows a mix of partially shaded perennials, including 'All Gold' Japanese flower grass and 'Carmine' heuchera, which flaunts copper-colored leaves. As in other areas of the garden, Andrew has been careful not to fill this border with too many permanent plants. "I use a lot of bold, colorful tropical plants in warm weather—canna lilies, canna, banana, taro, and others," he says. "I have to be careful as there's room for them." Some of these tropical plants he keeps near every year, others, such as the banana and canna, he digs up and places in containers in fall, stores in his basement through their winter dormancy, and brings out and replants once the soil warms up.

Andrew's favorite spot stands opposite this border. The summerhouse, a former garage, provides a screened-in, mosquito-free space for entertaining and has lovely views of the garden. Its courtyard provides room for a sunny gravel garden where he can display a variety of plants that appreciate quick drainage, including Scheuchzeria, with its huge globular flowers, and Mexican white oak and California evergreen oak, which Andrew prunes to keep neat and thrifty. Behind the summerhouse sits an enclosed kitchen

garden, where Andrew grows herbs in the center and, in the four surrounding square beds, alternates between flowers for eating and vegetables.

At the property's shady far end lies the woodland garden. Ferns, hellebores, and barrenwort were around a small pond and beneath small shrubs, such as a false Daphne, which sports fragrant purple blooms and slender rhododendron-like leaves. Andrew also grows several "solar-beacon" host—plants that are marginally hardy in his Zone 7 garden but worth trying in a sheltered spot—including a daisy-constate 'Halley's Comet' cone tree, which has big star-shaped spring flowers.

The front yard has an inviting cottage look, with sun-loving perennials, like the double-flowered 'Marianne' giant coneflower, and 'Skeeter' moor grass, and several shrubs, including burgundy-leaved 'Summer Wine' nandara and winter-blooming 'Jenna' witch hazel. Vines, including 'Pineapple Park' bougainvillea and 'Moonlight' Japanese hydrangea, soften the walls of the two-story house.

Initially, Andrew created these frame beds in the shade of a Japanese maple. The maple eventually died, however, as did the rose tree he tried in its place. Two new, native trees were recently added—a white oak and a 'Wildfire' black gum. "I might get disappointed when something I have looked along cracks, but with gardening, the best lessons are learned hands-on, through succeeding and failing," Andrew says. And with a wish list as long as his, an empty spot in the garden just means a chance to experiment with something new.



special specimens

A large potter's Dancing Flame is just one of the rare cultivars at home on the beach (f).



fresh alternatives to old standbys

In Andrew's sunny garden, David Lee David has shape space with exotic tropical succulents and underused natives. Adding even a few of the plants he lists below will likely encourage visitors to slow down as they walk your garden paths.



1. **'Binome' toad lily (Tricyrtis hirta 'Binome')** Instead of planting toads, bring in a toad to shady spots with this foliage, with its spots to add: spotted flowers in fall. Full to partial shade. 3 feet tall and 2 feet wide. Zones 6-8.
2. **Giant coneflower (Rudbeckia maxima)** Single-headed-eyed flowers for this towering North American are in white bright yellow blooms and floppy powder blue leaves. Full sun to partial shade. 5 to 6 feet tall and 2 feet wide. Zones 6-8.
3. **Spiketail (Stachys procumbens)** The globally held for this early spring bloomer. Before blooming, flower clusters split. Garden long change from bare branches. Full sun to partial shade. 3 to 12 feet tall and 2 feet wide. Zones 7-9.
4. **Japanese sparrowbush (Lindera obtusiloba)** Instead of Japanese maple, try this more shaped shrub with aromatic mature flowers. This sparrowbush has a more fragrant new growth, giving golden bell foliage and fragrant yellow flowers in late winter. Partial shade. 30 feet tall and wide. Zones 4-9.
5. **'Moonlight' Japanese hydrangea vine (Schizophragma hydrangoides 'Moonlight')** Rather than a potentially messy vine, plant 'Moonlight' hydrangea vine with its many elongated, dark blue flowers—a stunning cover for arched and walls. Full sun to partial shade. up to 40 feet tall. Zones 6-9.
6. **Pineapple lily (Nerine)** Keep bare and no ability to a pineapple lily for its tropical-looking blooms and spicy succulent foliage, which forms structure to best suit. Full sun. 30 inches tall and 18 inches wide. Zones 6-11.

Tablet bonus!

Want to see other views of this particularist's home garden and additional plants to keep in mind? Visit www.garden.com in our tablet edition—it's free for subscribers. Learn more at thisishow.com/tablet

If these walls could talk

BY MICHAEL LASSELL
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ERIC NICH
PRODUCED BY COLETTE SCANLON
STYLING BY EMILY RICHARDS

Built in a storied seaside town, with a core dating back to the 1750s, the old place had done time as a birthing house, a nursing home, and, most recently, a series of restaurants. It took a pair of intrepid homeowners with an eye for design to see beyond the insults of the centuries—and the commercial trade—and bring back the house's soul.



NAUTICAL TOUCH The assemblage of electrified lights, *LEFT*, over the bar is nautically evocative, as are the white and red lanterns that reflect the house's seaside history. This side door is now the main entrance to the house, as it was for the succession of restaurants that operated here.



AT LAST TO THE PAST
The old bar still towers as the first floor of the 1750 addition. It retains its original brick floor and a built-in side from the hotel cover of a building. Its brickwork is attached to the outside.

As

AMERICAN HOUSES GO, they don't get much older than this. Its original portion is one of historic Provincetown, Massachusetts's earliest survivors, built facing the bay to greet travelers who made their way to its front door by sea or along the "shore road," as the beach was sometimes called.

"Unfortunately, most of the town's records were destroyed by a fire in 1836, so we don't know exactly how old the house is," says interior designer and co-owner Kevin O'Shea. "But we know it was already here in 1792." Marm House, as it is known locally, after the last restaurant that operated on the premises, now backs up to Commercial Street, the resort town's main road. And it is once again a private house, a bar like a barbershop, a nursing home, and a series of local landmarks' exterior said to have been visited by the likes of Al Gore and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

Kevin and his partner, David Bond, weren't even in the market for a new home when they were looking for investment rental properties back in 2010. "But that idea went right out the window," says Kevin. "The windows once we walked through the door," says Kevin,

and the duo decided to move in, whatever it took.

The house they fell for had been constructed in three stages. The original section was a classic three-quarter Cape Cod, with two windows to the left of the front door and one to the right. It was enlarged in 1790 with a two-and-a-half-story ell, which added upstairs bedrooms. The newest part of the building, a one-story "shed" containing a commercial kitchen, had been slipped onto the side of the old addition when the property was converted to dining use in the 1960s.

Although the last dinner had been served to guests of Martin House five years earlier, Kevin and David found themselves in a restaurant that looked "one if they just shittered the windows and walked away one day," says Kevin. "The jam in the spice rack were still full." The original pegged wide-plank pine floors were there, though they were heavily gouged from the constant scrape of restaurant tables and chairs. Some of the windows had been replaced over the centuries, but others allowed the gazing coastal world full access to the interior.

Despite the obvious scars, the place had its assets. "I loved all the historical details," says Kevin. "And we were both struck by its quietness. I needed the idea of carving out living space from this somewhat bizarre house. We saw it for the first time in the morning, and by afternoon I was sketching floor plans."

The project would be what Kevin now calls "an additive renovation," meaning that walls would not be torn down but put up. "I'm not really fond of open-plan living," he says. "I like the enclosure of rooms, the comfort and intimacy." Previous owners had gutted the second floor, removing the bedrooms to create open dining space. Three bedrooms would go back in, along with two new baths. The kitchen, which Kevin describes as "a bleak industrial space," would have to be brought into some kind of harmony with the older rooms of the house. Parts of the place needed minimal work; others required significant repair and restoration, and it all had to add up to a cohesive whole.

"Whatever walked into," says general contractor Mark Nickerson, "was a mix of women." In addition to the decades of scratches covering the old pine floors, the pine wainscoting had been whittled on by some unidentified critter, and the electrical and plumbing systems needed to be expanded, particularly with the addition of two bedrooms upstairs.

Among the challenges of the renovation were the recent dampings. There are two in the house, including a rain cave in the original building that runs three feet deep. Behind their back mass is a "rag harbor," a space big enough for several people, that has an opening opposite the original front entry. Apparently it was used by early sailors to warm up quickly after braving the icy



COMFORTABLE CHARACTER The living room, ABOVE, is the oldest part of the house, with a pair of windows facing the harbor where the Mayflower Compact was signed. The beams, wainscoting and floors are all original.



ACCOLLECTED LOOK The dining room maintains the wall above (RIGHT) with a collection of blue-and-white pottery from Staffordshire, England, a tribute to where homeowner David Bond grew up. Remnants of Windsor chairs in various styles are united by a coat of off-white paint.



ENTER HERE Framed by nontoxic old-fashioned flowers and a simple lightbulb, the original entry from the beach. The house came with an expansive brick patio, lined with growing hydrangeas that had been used by the island's first post office. Today it holds a series of outdoor tables.



EATER ROUND Homeowner Kevin G. Shea designed the island and brick-made room (75 sq ft) to give the space ABQ's "more square in feeling." The nearby chimney's ornate fireplace was retained in salvaged brick. The dining room (80 sq ft) is used mainly for dinner parties. The partition in the swinging door's are left near from the home's southwest steps.

Atlantic writers, but it is also rumored to have been used to hide escaped slaves before the Civil War.

Fortunately, the snug harbor was in good shape, but the chimney in the 1796 addition, which had one of two period beehive ovens, was another matter, and Kevin was told that it ought to be demolished. Unwilling to let the piece of history go, he turned to master Charles Bonfin, who had owned the area as a boy and known as much as anyone about 18th-century-oak houses.

"Some of them were actually built from the remains of old sailing vessels, and are in tight to ships," Bonfin says. "Some were even floated to their current sites. When you work under one of these houses, it's like an archaeological dig. You never know what you're going to find." As for Martin House, he says, "the place had been gutted in the 1970s, and it looked like they tore off the outer layer of the chimney and never replaced it." Bonfin swapped what was there in a packet of salvaged brick that preserved the historic construction and masonry.

Kevin and David wanted to respect the history of the house, but they also wanted a place that they could live in comfortably. "We wanted to create a sense of isolation

over the years, not a frozen moment in time, so that Victorian and even modern elements wouldn't seem out of place," Kevin says. "I did want everything to have some age to it, some wear, and both the construction and the decor follow that principle."

Kevin had wanted to get the line, which occupies the ground floor of the early addition, but David talked him into keeping it. "I was stuck on the image of a basement bar in a suburban tract house, with area beer signs on it, so I had to bring myself around to thinking of a bar in our house—and now it's one of our favorite rooms," Kevin says. "We left the brick floor and the bar itself, which is partly made from old doors. I moved one of the entrance tables because the top is made from the back cover of an old ship. And I'm told it was Norman Mailer's favorite table."

Upgrading the kitchen was problematic, says Kevin.



Floor plans

The first floor remained largely intact, although plenty of work was needed. The second floor was carved into three bedrooms and two baths, with attic storage.

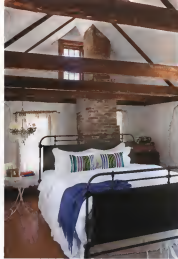
1ST FLOOR



2ND FLOOR



PRO STYLE The kitchen, ABOVE, and LEFT occupies what is essentially what happened to the house when it was built into a restaurant in the 1980s. Designer Kevin G. Shea never left wanted to pay homage to its days as a commercial kitchen while cleaning it up with some historical and modern touches—there are 18th-century corner like this. The lighting is an invention of his own, made largely of vintage parts. The molding above the islandboard serves as a duct for wires and plans.



STATE RETIREE The master, LEFT, is one of three bedrooms added to the second floor, which had lost its partition wall but retained its beams and rafters. The chimney on extension of the new is the last with signs of salvaged brick added partway up to the roof. The master's look, BELOW, one of two new ones upstairs, has a vintage look with beautiful, saffron silk, a black and white marble floor, and a newly wall-to-wall rug. "I wanted the walls to look like they had been added at some point in the history of the house," says Kevin. The salvaged pine doors over the sink are at a storage vault in the wall.



It needed to be brought back as time had still remained a small, modern kitchen," he says. "It just didn't need to be a commercial kitchen without a soul." So as a nod to the room's previous use, he installed commercial-grade stainless-steel appliances and fixtures but cleverly hid new electrical lines and heating pipes in the moldings and painted the old walls in inspiration and a dash of color. "I like cream-colored walls and beige," he says. "I had collected fixtures as we were shopping for the house." He says "Some were complete, some were just pieces. They fit—wood there and metal there together with some reproduction cloth-wrapped electrical cord I found." David Mark found a large sign of an old sign on a coffee table and there came in modern, small-time made out of old items."

Since the upstairs bathroom did not previously exist, Kevin chose salvaged pedestal sinks as well as a

various bathbuds to suggest a past. The space that was turned into the master bathroom had been a service bar at the restaurant, with the original lath ceiling and a set of very narrow stairs. Those were the only things from the 13th century that were removed in the renovation.

Three years after the purchase, the house keeps growing on its owners. "It's peaceful and private and has the sense of a quiet enclave about it," says Kevin. "Still, it's not as best when we're commuting, gathering around the bar and soaking up the emotions of people who had apparently there, or having formal dinner parties in the dining room. In summer we host groups of friends out on the patio." And so, almost three centuries after it first went up, the old house continues to evolve, absorbing the virtues of its inhabitants and visitors—and adding a new layer of an remarkable history. ■



SITTING PRETTY "Mine did take to the party more than most," says Kavin modestly in the previous hour and David turns to a large black rectangle that runs the width of the house table in a series of subtle stunts that greatly expanded their summer home living space. **LEFT** A pair of readers forms an intimate conversation spot. A double-helix weather-resistant black-galvanized iron **BELLOWS** is made comfy with an abundance of out-of-state cushions. Ceramic pots in stinks stand ready to hold succulents. A book or two adds party punch.



	tablet
	1 mg/1 mL

Want to peek inside of this house? You'll find additional images in our tablet edition—if it's free for subscribers. Learn more at theoldhouse.com/tablet

COMMUNITY CENTRAL.
A military-shaped pergotha on
the historic side of the island.

ARCHIE turns out to be a **knack** in costume, and contains the living room. It is a lively gathering and the results are numerous.



ALL ABOUT

Path lighting

With a little knowledge and a little planning, you can lead family and friends safely to your door and cast your home in a whole new light. *By Chris Raymond*

We all want our homes to be welcoming—at least to our loved ones, friends, and neighbors. In winter that means shoveling snow from the sidewalk. In summer it includes illuminating the treacherous darkness of darkened paths and stairs. You don't need to light up your house like a crime scene, of course. But for safety reasons, it pays to install walkway lighting that will gently guide everyone to your front porch or your backyard picnic table.

These days, that's much easier to do than you might think. Contrary to conventional wisdom, you don't have to have a degree in electrical engineering or an offshore bank account to get started. There's a wide selection of inexpensive fixtures, and the installation process is mostly foolproof. Designed to operate on low-voltage systems, the lights are almost as safe to handle as a 9-volt battery.

On the following pages, you'll find everything you need to know to plan the ideal layout. Once you learn how to choose the right fixtures, select a bulb known for energy efficiency and quality of light, and identify the fixtures on your property worthy of illumination, you can get to work. As a bonus, we've included some design tips from a few seasoned pros. Before long, you'll have guests gawking at your doorings. The retired land, that is, burglars? They hate it when you see them coming.

Anatomy of a DIY kit
For homeowners who'd like to try the do-it-yourself route, manufacturers offer this simple solution. Everything you need comes in one box. (Shown: the iFolia bronze-path lights. \$120 for six, www.ifs.com)

Light fixtures
Provides blue-white safety and security.

Transformer
Reduces voltage from a typical 120 to a safer 12.

Snap-back connectors
Let wires join without having to solder.

Low-voltage power cable
Reels electricity from transformer to the fixtures.



"Light delivers peace," says Mike Genucci, president of Fethered Properties Landscaping in Connecticut, who designed the award-winning layout for this house. To enhance a blue evening view, his recommendations that path fixtures be installed about 4 1/4 inches high. (Shown: Genucci Lighting's iFoliaGB. Seven-path lighting, \$280. www.genucci-lighting.com)

VITALS

How much does it cost?

Features range from \$3 to \$400 a piece; cables cost roughly \$0.05 per foot, and a transformer can set you back up to \$1,000. A 10-light system installed by a pro typically starts at \$1,500.

DIY or hire a pro?

The average homeowner can install a simple path light system. Star lights require more knowledge: often with masonry and electric skills. For a truly inspired layout, go with a landscape-lighting specialist.

How much upkeep?

Remove debris and dirty a few fixtures to keep them from overheating. Replace burned-out bulbs right away to avoid overheating others in the circuit.

How long will they last?

Most modern fixtures and transformers range from six to 10 years, but high-quality copper or brass lamps will light the way for decades.

Choose a type

Though they come in many shapes and sizes, walkway fixtures are designed to perform specific tasks. Here's what they do

Step For like stairs, the lamp serves a vital function: preventing missteps. Shown: GM-730 surface-mount light by Cooper Motion, \$39; landscapelighting.com

Fixtures can be installed in risers (below), or on a wall beside the stairway (above). Shown: FD-SL-06-LED-P-BRASS light by Focuz Industries, \$188; smallerhome.com

Path Set as stakes driven into the ground, these lamps have lenses in a range of decorative styles, but their real purpose is to project pools of light down toward your feet. Shown: PS271-20 by Progress Lighting; psalightingdirect.com

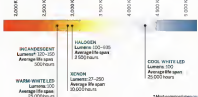


Downlight When placed high as a tree, the long, narrow fixtures create a moonlight effect, bathing a stairway or a stretch of path in a soft glow. Shown: GND-12-35 by Uniper Lighting Systems, \$60; spriderupplystore.com



Rating the new bulbs

The chart below provides some idea of the ideal light colors available for each option. Keep in mind that the warmth, measured in kelvins (K), will vary from one product to the next. When shopping, also note the life span of each bulb and the number of lumens, which indicates the amount of light generated. For comparison, a typical 60-watt bulb equals about 800 lumens.



*Most incandescent bulbs

How to select a transformer

Before installing any pathway fixtures, you need to step down the voltage from your household system so that you don't have to worry about harming pets or small children who might fiddle with the cables. If you don't have an outdoor receptacle at the ready to receive the transformer plug, hire an electrician to install one.

Transformers vary in size from 100 to 1,200 watts. To determine which one is best for you, add up the number of watts required to power all your fixtures, then multiply that figure by 1.25. Just in case you decide to buy more lights later on.

Take a moment to consider add-on options, too. Some transformers offer timers, photo-electric sensors, wireless remote control, and even multiple circuits. If you want one setup for safety lighting, one for accent lighting, and one for the works.



THE BEST BULB

For more than a century we learned everything we needed to know about light bulbs at grade school. By the time we'd year, though, Thomas Edison's energy-squandering incandescent bulb was officially replaced due to the stouter efficiency standards adopted by Congress in 2007. So what's the ideal alternative? The answer is your first big decision: The future of pathway lighting belongs to the LED (light-emitting diode) and to electron-driven semiconductor (LED) bulbs. They can be powered by a smaller transformer, and the light they give off—once denied for being too blue—drifts warmer these days. Secure a lock for yourself, though, because light quality often varies from one manufacturer to the next. By contrast, halogen bulbs are like experts, produce a glow comparable to their old-school peers, and consume 30 percent less energy. Xenon bulbs, which use electron in a cloud of xenon gas to generate light, are less efficient and less bright but a little warmer, and they can last up to 20,000 hours—not quite in LED territory, but close.

Save or splurge?

Some fixtures sell for \$50. Others cost \$600 or more. What's in the disparity? Well, aesthetics plays a role, of course. But craftsmanship and materials add to the price, too. Take a look.



good

ette

best

Allen + Roth LED Path Light, \$25 lowes.com. The glass lens and metal body make for a sturdy, more-weather-resistant construction than the plastic parts of budget-basement rivals.

Halocon RS-4 Large Horizon Path Light, \$55 blacklighting.com. The powder-coat finish, applied to the cast-aluminum body after a five-step cleaning process, has been proved to withstand harsh weather. Dillo the stainless-steel fasteners.

Focus Industries R&B 00 Path Light, \$95 arcadefurniture.com. The copper body can endure decades of sun, wind, rain and snow, developing a maintenance-free patina along the way. The brass tubular sensor lowers the lens to adjust to the beam.

THE STATE OF SOLAR

The great appeal of solar lighting is outside-free installation. When the sun supplies the power, who needs cables? But solar technology has drawbacks. New fixtures can take weeks to reach their optimum output. And once they do you're still at the mercy of Mother Nature. In some northern climates, the sun may produce 8 to 10 hours' worth of energy in summer but only 2 to 6 in winter. To make the most of that power, manufacturers often sacrifice lamp brightness. Bottom line: Solar lights have grown more efficient, but they can't defy the weekend weather forecast.



DIY TIPS FROM A PRO

Mark Pinterbeck of Commonwealth Landscape Lighting has been installing fixtures in Massachusetts for 15 years. He offers this advice to help you avoid rookie mistakes.

> WIRING It's natural to want to string lights in one straight line from the transformer. But that can leave the lamps at the very end starved for power. It's better to create loops or a "C" with the transformer at its base.

> PLACEMENT As a general rule, it's best to illuminate from above. A lamp in a tree covers more ground than one installed at knee level. **> SPACING** Resist the urge to brighten every inch of walkway. You're not lighting a parking lot. Ideally the lamps should be placed 30 to 35 feet apart, creating pools of light that gently pool the way.

> POSITIONING Poorly aimed lamps can be harsh on the eyes, especially if you're on the way and you're not looking at the light. Don't forget that eye level shifts when people sit down. If you want folks to enjoy that garden bench, don't throw light in their faces.

> AESTHETICS Design to the extra effort to run a line beneath the walkway if it's more attractive to place lights on both sides of a path. Stopper them rather than placing them directly opposite to one another money-style.

Make magic

With the right touch, path lights bring the most charming features of your yard into view, creating a late-night dreamscape. Here are a few bright ideas.

1 > a clever twist

From the porch above the stairs, these lights reveal the path and the beauty of the landscape. Similar to Southern Frost Lighting's COCOON Small Chime Hat Light, \$285, sco-lighting.com.

2 > eye candy

Instead of showing up the property's concrete work, the fixtures in this report sit the lush greenery beside the walk. See the way. Shown: Kichler 28872 Tawny Bronze Hammered Steel Light, \$142, lightingdirect.com.

3 > work of art

In this case, the lovely brickwork gets a glowing review from a well-placed light. Similar to shown: Hinkley Hardy Island Hooded Steel Light, \$65, hinkley.com.

4 > moonlit walk

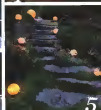
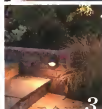
Much like a cone of moonlight, a downlight placed on a branch at a twisty shade tree creates romance. Shown: Nightscaping's Well 04340U Artisan Light, \$132, wellscaping.com.

5 > magic lantern

These aren't glass lanterns, but they do let light, and they do so in a way that's as magical as a magic lantern. Shown: LumaLumina's LightCubes, \$450, lightcubes.com.

DIY help

For step-by-step info, check on how to install a path light, visit www.houzz.com/jan2013.



Professional maintenance

Though fixtures are designed to perform from dusk to dawn year-round, every lighting installation expects after-service contracts. For a lot, Guy Rahm to your home each year to straighten fixtures, clean lenses, and replace bulbs. They also test the circuits to make sure each lamp receives between 20.8 and 12.1 volts. "If the first fixture gets more than 12, the bulb will burn out faster," says Andrew Coleman of Mike Ray Landscape Lighting, in Omaha. "The one at the end may get 8, which means it will last longer but burn less brightly." A real pro also knows how to move solar fixtures in the dark days of winter to capture more light. ■



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inside

MULCH TIPS

INSTALL A SKYLIGHT

MULTITASKING TOOLS

MORE



65
tips, tricks, and
answers to
your home-
improvement
questions

Q How often should I water my newly seeded lawn?

—CAROLYNSTORMETTE, NEWTON, MASS.

A Whether you have a portable sprinkler, a timer, or a drip system, watering grass is all about timing. On average, grass seeds need a 3-minute shower two or three times a day. Once they sprout, sprinkle them twice in the morning for about 20 minutes. In a few weeks, when the sprouts are about 3 inches tall, cut these 20-minute waterings back to once every two or three days.

—ROSE K. COOK, TOP LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR



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ROGER COOK
Landscape Contractor



KEVIN O'CONNOR
Host

Q How much mulch is too much mulch? Every spring, I see people adding a layer several inches thick around their trees. Shouldn't they remove some before adding more?

—WART WILLIAMS, GLENDALE, N.J.



Roger Cook spreads a layer of fresh mulch around the base of a tree, taking care to keep a clear space around the trunk.

Roger Cook replies: Adding mulch to a garden or around shrubs insulates the soil from temperature swings, slows down evaporation so that roots don't dry out too quickly or need frequent watering, and keeps moose and voles from eating at a safe distance. Mulch also suppresses weeds, secures the landscape, and, if it's organic, boosts soil fertility. But, as you suspect, too much of it can be a bad thing.

Mulch that's more than 4 inches thick tends to compact, making it harder for rain and oxygen to reach the soil or for wet soil to dry out. And it becomes a nice habitat for weeds. Piling mulch up high against a tree, into so-called mulch volcanoes, increases the tree's vulnerability to rot and to growing critters that use the mulch as cover. These volcanoes also create the much-loved room to grow around and girdle the trunk, which can kill the tree.

So before topping old mulch with a fresh layer, measure the existing layer's thickness. If it's more than 4 inches thick or has become a hard mat, use a rake or shovel to break it up and remove the excess. If the mulch is loose and 2 to 4 inches thick, you're good for another year. Make sure to keep all mulch 4 inches from the trunks of trees and shrubs.

FIX FOR LEAKY DUCTS

Like in a well-insulated house over an unheated, uninsulated basement, should the ductwork that runs through it be insulated?

—DAVID RITCHIE, MANASSA, DEL.

Richard Trethewey replies: Uninsulated metal ducts do lose a fair amount of heat in the winter, and they are likely to drip with condensation in the summer. So, yes, insulating them is a good idea. But first, every joint and connection has to be sealed. A typical HVAC system loses as much as 20 percent of its air through crinkled duct joints, and all that expensive heating and cooling sure won't do much good in your new basement.

You can seal the seams with either aluminum duct sealing tape or duct mastic. Do not use duct tape—it dries out and comes loose. Mastic is messy and needs at least a day to dry, but when done correctly, it's easier to work with than tape. If a gap is greater than 1/4 inch, reinforce the mastic with mesh tape made specifically for that application, not the stuff for reinforcing drywall joints. Whether you use tape or mastic, it should be labeled as meeting UL-181, the standard for durability and effectiveness.

After the ducts are sealed, wrap them with insulation that has an annual vapor barrier to prevent condensation. The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), which sets minimum efficiency requirements for new construction, specifies that ducts in the basement should have R-6 insulation.

REPAIR FLYWOOD SIDING

I have a small shed sided with T-111 plywood. Its lower edge has deteriorated because of moisture



A-1 Pipe hook

B-1 Tile spacer

C-1 Compact wheelbarrow ramp for pickup trucks

D-1 Sentinel lantern

FOR THE ABOVE
DELIVERIES



The water-damaged portion of the plywood siding along the bottom edge of this shed will have to be cut off and replaced with a piece of a new piece of siding.



splashing off the ground. Is there a way to fix the damage?

—DAN HEMMANN, RIVERVILLE, N.J.

Tom Silva replies: Only a few inches of siding need to be replaced, so the easiest, least expensive option would be to cut off the bottom edge and replace it with a water table, a 1x6 or 1x10 made of wood or cellular PVC called flat to the shed's frame. Or you can replace the siding below the cut with new T-111.

First, remove the corner boards at each end of the wall. Set the cutting depth on a circular saw a hair deeper than the thickness of the old siding, and tack a straightedge horizontally to the wall—preferably to the portion you plan to remove—so guide the saw.

After you make the cut and remove the damaged siding, brush exterior primer onto the cut edge to protect it from moisture. Now take some metal Z-flashing, so called because it has two 90-degree bends in

it, and slip its wider leg up behind the siding. Do the same with additional pieces of flashing along the entire cut. Overlap the ends of adjacent pieces by 2 inches, and seal with a bead of caulk at the overlap to keep out water.

Place the top edge of the new siding on the water table—it should also be primed—against the underside of the flashing's horizontal leg, and nail the new piece to a nailing stud. This horizontal leg should be a bit wider than the thickness of the piece it covers so that it overhangs slightly, to prevent water from wicking up behind the flashing's exposed vertical leg. Do not caulk the edge where the siding and flashing meet.

If you replace old siding with new, simply remove your corner boards. But if you install a water table, cut the corner boards to fit against the top of the flashing, and caulk only the vertical joints at each end of the run.

Continued page 126

QUESTION
OF THE
MONTH

Tom Silva replaces the shingles around a new skylight, the last step in a keep-dry installation.

Q I've heard that all skylights, eventually, leak. Is it possible to install one so that it stays watertight?

—ANDREW HOLCOMB, WESTWOOD, MASS.

Tom Silva replies: Although complaints about leaking skylights were once valid, new designs and better flashing methods have largely put an end to water-infiltration worries. In fact, the Vikaz skylight I'm installing here boasts a 50-year warranty against leakage.

A warranty that confident doesn't allow for sharoons on installation, though, the flashing steps have to be followed to the letter.

On a roof with rafters, I frame the rough opening from below by doubling the rafters on the sides and adding a doubled-up board and sill to the top and bottom of the opening, respectively. (Check with your local building inspector if you have a crew roof.) The rest of the steps take place on the roof, where a full protection rope and harness are a must. If you're intimidated by heights or reluctant to do the safety gear, leave the job to a pro.

Costs: \$450 for a 22-by-36-inch skylight, \$150 for a fastener kit.

Time: 2 hours, since the framing is done.

Difficulty: Moderate. You'll need a helper to get the skylight onto the roof.

STEP-BY-STEP Install a skylight

1. Cut the opening

From below, drive a deck screw through the roof at a 45-degree angle through the rough opening. On the roof, stop the shingles about 7 inches beyond those points, and snap a chalk line between each pair of screws. Use a circular saw to plunge out through the sheathing along the chalk lines, as shown, and trim sides. Snap off the eaves.



5. Sill-flash the bottom edge

Nail roofing shingles over the bottom membrane; the membrane will seal around the nails. Now pass the U-shaped sill flashing over the shingles, as shown, and tuck it over the skylight's bottom and. Nail the piece to the roof at the top outside corners of the U, and cover the exposed sides with shingles.

2. Flash the sill

Have a helper inside carefully lower the cutout as you cut the fourth side. Nail the roof sheathing down inside the perimeter of the opening. Stick a strip of self-adhesive membrane across the bottom edge of the opening, as shown. Cut and fold the top flange or seal the strip over, onto the exposed sill.



6. Step-flash the sides

Overlap the top half of the shingle that cover the sill flashing with a piece of L-shaped step flashing. Drive one nail near the top outside corner and a second one a few inches below that. Cover the flashing with a shingle, add the next piece of flashing step that, and so on, up both sides of the skylight.



7. Counterflash the sides

Cover the vertical legs of the step flashing with strips of counterflashing—they snap right onto the rim of the skylight. Counterflashing is the key to sealing out wind-driven rain and snow.



8. Install the saddle flashing

Lift the first course of shingles above the skylight, slide the underlayment (if the shingles under the shingles) and slip the saddle flashing strip steps up through the attic. Fit the flashing against the skylight, fit the shingles, and nail the final row of shingles. Nail a seal course of shingles over the flashing, leaving 4 inches of exposure.

REFURISH A BUTCHER BLOCK
I'd like to restore an old end grain butcher-block table for the kitchen.
Can I make it food-safe?

—SHANNEDRIGHI, WYOMING, WY.

Norm Abram replies: The short answer is, yes. In fact, I just restored one like yours. You'll need a belt sander and a lot of patience, because sanding and grain is slow and tedious work.

To erase the stains, bumps, grooves, and other imperfections, use coarse 40-grit sandpaper and be sure to keep the sander moving over the entire surface so that you don't dig furrows in the wood. Once the surface is smooth, flat, and stain-free, repeat the process using 120-grit sandpaper and a random-orbit sander. Vacuum thoroughly and fill any cracks with a nontoxic, water-based wood filler to keep out food particles. (Solvent-based fillers aren't safe



Before removing a tree or shrub, consider whether birds might be nesting there.

able for food-prep surfaces.) After the filler hardens, hand-sand those spoon marks with 120-grit paper.

Finally, treat the surface with food-grade mineral oil. Warm the oil in a pan and apply several coats, using a rag or brush, until the wood refuses to absorb any more and the surface begins to gleam.

Wipe off any residue. Maintain the job by reoiling it every month with more oil.

BIRDS IN SHRUBS

We want to get rid of the evergreen shrubs that are too close to the front of our house, but birds nest in them during the spring and summer. When is the best time of year to remove the shrubs without disturbing the birds?

—MILLARBYCHOLDEN, HAMILTON, ONT.

Roger Cook replies: The timing of nesting season varies according to the species of bird and your local climate. Some birds nest once each season, while others, such as cardinals, may nest several times. Give your local Cooperative Extension office or Audubon Society chapter a call, because they may be able to give you specific advice regarding the nesting behavior of birds in your area.

CLOSE UP A STAIR GAP

All along the stairway on one side, a big gap has opened up between the cap molding and the angled baseboard below it. The gap wasn't there when we moved in 10 years ago. What can I do about it?

—THOMAS LEE, SENECA, N.Y.

Norm Abram replies: An even gap above the doorboard (the angled baseboard-like trim beside the stair) probably means that the doorboard, the stair stringer (the framing that supports the stair), or both dried out and shrank after they were installed. If that's the case, and the gap has stayed the same for the past few years, then the wood has probably stabilized enough for the gap to be closed. That's a project you can do yourself. Start if the gaps appear narrow; there may be a structural weakness that needs to be fixed. Call a remodeling contractor to come have a look.

Assuming that the stair doesn't have structural problems, I think the best solution would be to gently pry the cap molding off the wall and install it right in the doorboard. To do this without damaging the wall, put a wide putty knife behind the cap and slip a mallet pry bar between the cap and the knife's blade. Now use these tools to work the cap free a little at a time along its entire length. Once the cap is off, you'll see that it is studded with finishing nails, which you can remove by pulling them through the cap with a pair of pliers. After you remove the cap, fill the joints with latex caulk.

LUMBER FOR BASEMENTS

I'd like to build several partition walls in my basement. What sort of studs should I use in that space?

—THOMAS PARIS, SILVER SPRING, MD.

askthisoldhouse

Tom Silva replies: Use standard framing lumber for the studs, and make sure they are fully straight. (Treated lumber is a must for the bottom plate.) Studs with a slight crown—a bow along the edge—aren't a problem as long as you install them with all the crowns facing in the same direction, either in or out. Otherwise the drywall will be wavy after you install it. ■

send your questions to
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go to thisoldhouse.com/askthis or write to: Ask This Old House, This Old House magazine, 125 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020

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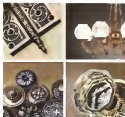
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Price: \$1 (must be removed)
Location: Hope, Indiana
Contact: Greg Seisuke
 317-632-1944

The history: In 2006, Charles Starfield and his wife Suzanne moved their family from nearby Thornton with the goal of striking what Hager is becoming: agricultural industry. The couple bought this 260,000-sq-ft and the local green mill. The main business thrived, and the level 2 600-sq-ft horse barn quickly became a gathering place for extended family. At Helling time, you could catch a glimpse of as many as 10 relatives sitting in rocking chairs in the living room, whittling in the width of the first floor. The house stayed in the family until 2008, but by then, later in life, adds a neighboring community center, which plans to expand onto the home's lot.

Why save it? The exterior has extensive, fanciful Queen Anne embellishments, including the original turned porch and detailed spindlework. Metal siding conceals original wood clapboards, as well as decorative bands of scalloped shingles. Inside, a curved staircase crafted from oak and walnut leads to the top of the tower.

What it needs: In addition to a permanent plot—a suitable site nearby is listed for \$25,000—the house requires a new roof and all new systems. The town of Hope has just over 2,100 inhabitants and lies 45 miles south of Indianapolis. After being moved and updated, this charming home will be ready for many more years of gracious entertaining—you'll just have to assemble your own set of modern chairs. —*MAIA NGUYEN*

**A detailed
Queen Anne
for a
dollar!**

7. Estimates remove the three bedrooms, two bath house within town are \$30,000 to \$40,000. The period photo provides a cost map for restoring the gable trusses. It also shows the bands of scalloped shingles. Watercating in the living room was added during an early 20th-century renovation. The staircase is a prime example, with its original round post, balustrade, and curved stair balusters.

Got a house? If you're not afraid to share that small, hot space and a few tips, write to unfathomable@ferris.com or The 3rd House, 131 West 10th Street, New York, NY 10014.

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